

Iraq names new defence minister

BAGHDAD (AFP) — President Saddam Hussein on Tuesday appointed General Sultan Hashem Ahmad as his new defence minister to replace General Ali Hassan Al Majid, who has moved to a key post in the ruling party. The official INA news agency said Mr. Ahmad was previously chief of staff of the Iraqi army. Another decree was issued Tuesday relieving Mr. Majid of his defence duties, INA said. President Saddam on Sunday moved the former tough defence minister and his cousin to become party boss for the Baghdad Al Karakh region amid several new appointments. Mr. Majid had held the defence portfolio since 1992 and was entrusted with delicate missions within the government. He is a former interior minister. The decision was made during a meeting of the Baath Party leadership.

Israel, Jordan 'to cooperate on Bosnian aid'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and Jordan are to work together to help Bosnian Muslim refugees, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokeswoman said Tuesday. His Majesty King Hussein called Mr. Rabin on Saturday and urged Israel to send troops to join U.N. forces to protect Muslims, alongside Jordan's 2,000-strong contingent, said spokeswoman Aliza Goren. Mr. Rabin ruled out dispatching an armed force to the region, but agreed to coordinate humanitarian aid efforts with Jordan.

Fighting breaks out in N. Iraq

NICOSIA (AFP) — Fighting broke out Monday in northern Iraq between government troops and an opposition alliance made up of Iraqi Kurds and Arabs, the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said. In a statement received here, the INC, comprising Kurdish and Arab opposition groups in Iraq, said the fighting between it and the Iraqi army "caused a number of deaths and injuries" among government troops. The INC, however, did not report any deaths or injuries among its forces.

Russian FM to visit Iraq, Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev is due to travel to Kuwait and Iraq in August, a senior Kuwaiti official said here Tuesday. Mr. Kozyrev's visit was prepared by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posavayuk who ended a two-day trip to Kuwait, a Kuwaiti foreign ministry official, Suleiman Al Shabin, told AFP. "Maybe he is trying to convince them to give a full account of their biological programme," he said.

Iraqi foreign minister arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf arrived here on Tuesday for talks with Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid. The Iraqi delegate to the league Nabil Najm said, but sources at the organisation said the meeting may be held Thursday. Mr. Sahhaf and Mr. Abdul Meguid would discuss relations between Iraq and the United Nations and ways to obtain the lifting of U.N. sanctions slapped on Baghdad after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, league officials said.

Israel resettles families of 750 Arab informers

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities have relocated the families of 750 West Bank collaborators with Israel inside the Jewish state to shield them from revenge acts ahead of an army pullout, an official said on Tuesday. Reserve General Menachem Eitan, head of the authority to absorb collaborators, said a few hundred other families are in the process of being resettled. "What we will try to do is create for them a sense of belonging," he told Israel Radio. Israel began moving collaborators after it handed over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank enclave of Jericho to the Palestinian self-rule authority in May 1994.

Kaddoumi, Saleh hold talks

SANAA (AFP) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh held talks here Tuesday with a PLO opponent of the Palestinian autonomy accord, the SABA news agency said. Farouk Kaddoumi, the political department chief based in Tunis because of his opposition to the PLO-Israeli accord that launched limited autonomy last year, thanked Mr. Saleh for his "support" for the Palestinian struggle, SABA said.

Serbs launch heavy attack on Zepa

Bosnian forces seize U.N. weapons

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces on Tuesday launched a heavy attack on the eastern U.N. "safe area" of Zepa where casualties were reported to be mounting among the 17,000 people in the isolated Muslim enclave.

"There's a combined tank and artillery attack on Zepa and surrounding villages right now. It is a very difficult situation for us," an amateur radio operator told receivers in the capital Sarajevo. "We have casualties, a lot of casualties... the humanitarian situation here is horrifying, almost no medicine is available," he said late on Monday after an earlier attack.

The situation in Zepa was reported to be "deteriorating rapidly" with intensive mortar fire hitting the town, U.N. spokesman Chris Guinness said in Zagreb.

But it was not yet clear whether this was the long-expected all-out offensive by the Serbs, he added. The 79 Ukrainian U.N. peacekeepers in Zepa had abandoned seven of their nine observation posts, U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said. One was still manned inside government territory and the other was ringed by Serb mines.

The U.N. estimates the government can muster from 600 to 1,000 fighting men in Zepa. Some are using armoured personnel carriers seized from the Ukrainians



A Bosnian fighter joins his wife and son at the Tuzla refugee camp. Some 22,000 refugees have taken shelter in Tuzla (AFP photo)

on Monday and appeared to be holding their own against the Serb attack," Col. Coward said.

With Zepa close to falling exactly one week after separatist Serb forces captured the eastern U.N.-designated "safe area" of Srebrenica, Western governments were still at an impasse over how to tackle the three-year-old

Bosnian crisis. British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind headed to Washington for talks after France failed to persuade Britain and the U.S. to agree to military action involving U.S. helicopters to protect the third eastern enclave of Gorazde. Britain has 320 troops in Gorazde, Ukraine has 90 and

Norway a small medical team, Col. Coward said. Government troops have seized the Ukrainian camp in Gorazde, taking their weapons, armoured personnel carriers, money and personal belongings. Muslim forces took hostage a Ukrainian U.N. officer on Monday and threatened to shoot him unless his forces

gave up their remaining weapons, the Ukrainian foreign ministry said. Muslim fighters — denied arms by an international embargo — want to seize U.N. weapons before the Serbs do. The United Nations said

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Sharif Zeid, Kabariti brief House committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The government Tuesday briefed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament on the recent developments in the Jordanian-Saudi relations, the position of the Jordanian unit in the U.N. peacekeeping force in former Yugoslavia and the political situation in the Middle East.

The briefing was presented by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti in the presence of the House's Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Sour.

Following the meeting, committee Chairman Abdullah Ensour told reporters that the prime minister briefed the committee members on Jordanian precautionary measures in the face of any

emergency which the Jordanian unit of the U.N. peacekeeping force could face, noting that the government was maintaining contacts with European nations to guarantee the safety of the Jordanian unit.

The prime minister stressed that the Jordanian unit is in no danger because it is located in Croatia, far from the scene of current military operations, adding that the minute this unit faces danger, precautionary measures will be taken to ensure the safety of its members and their return home, according to Dr. Ensour.

Referring to the foreign minister's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Ensour said the committee has been briefed on the outcome of that visit and the minister's

talks with Saudi Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs. The foreign minister reviewed with the Saudi officials Jordanian-Saudi relations and steps that should be taken to bolster bilateral ties and to restore normal relations between the two countries, according to Dr. Ensour.

He added that Saudi Arabia plans to name an ambassador to Jordan soon and reopen Saudi markets for Jordanian products and facilitate the Jordanian people's travel to, and residence in Saudi Arabia.

Apart from these two issues, the committee was briefed on the latest developments between Egypt and

OIC to meet over Bosnia

JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will meet Saturday in Geneva to discuss the growing crisis in Bosnia, an official at the group's headquarters here said.

A statement released in Jeddah, headquarters for the pan-Islamic group, said earlier that the OIC's contact group would meet Friday in Rabat, but after consultations the time and location were changed.

The official, however, added that the latest scheduled meeting is "not definitive because of continuing consultations between members of the group."

A lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia, "will be discussed when the (group) meets in Geneva on Saturday," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in Cairo earlier Tuesday.

Mr. Musa added the meeting will "examine the Islamic position to the terrible tragedy to Bosnia and the worsening situation there."

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Foreign minister stresses need for cooperation

Jordanian, Palestinian-Israeli businessmen see opportunities for joint ventures

By Beatrix Immenkamp

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday urged Jordanian and Palestinian-Israeli businessmen to join forces to help build a better future for generations to come.

Addressing the opening of the first executive meeting between Jordanian and Palestinian-Israeli businessmen, Mr. Kabariti, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, welcomed the guests later in the evening, hoped that peace in the region would provide the right atmosphere for investment.

"We are happy to have you here. We see in you a bright picture of steadfastness, a symbol of true Arabism, a source of inspiration to all of those who look towards the future without fear," he said. "Your experience and your good reputation make you one of the most important pillars of peace."

Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan is looking forward to private sector participation in the process of construction, development and enhancement of relations. "This will reflect positively on all citizens if joint ventures between the two parties are achieved," he said.

The Executive Chairman of the Hashemite Association, Ma'an Zabian, delivered an emotional speech on the occasion of the first meeting of Jordanians and Palestinian-Israelis who had no contact for almost 50 years.

"From 21 cities and villages, the delegation has come to reply to a call by the Crown Prince who strove immediately after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty for the renewal of contacts... between parents and parents... family and family... brother and brother," Mr. Zabian said.

President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nazareth and head of the delegation, Sami Shaheen, expressed his appreciation for the Jordanian leadership's support and encouragement to Palestinian-Israelis.

"We saw in Jordan a steadfast country that gives due attention to the interests of its citizens and the whole Arab Nation," he said. "The peace treaty with Israel secured the rights of Jordan and Jordanians and ensured justice, peace and stability without overlooking the interests of other Arab peoples in general and the Palestinian people in particular."

In the words of Mr. Zabian, Jordanians and Palestinian-Israelis are ideally suited to enter business relations. "First of all, we are neighbours. Secondly, we

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Arafat, Peres to meet Mubarak in Alexandria

Self-rule talks deadlocked over water rights

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak will meet Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Wednesday for talks on expanding Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Mubarak, who has tried to act as a mediator between Israel and the Palestinians, will meet separately with Mr. Arafat and then Mr. Peres before all three come together in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria. The meeting will last one day.

The meeting could serve to overcome some of the more troublesome points holding up a deal in negotiations over expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

With only a week left before a self-imposed deadline for agreement, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were deadlocked Tuesday over the issue of water resources, officials said.

Israeli Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni said Israel hoped to persuade Mr.

Arafat in Egypt to sign an agreement on expanding Palestinian autonomy without resolving the water issue. "Things that are not settled ... at this stage, will be postponed with Mubarak as witness," Mr. Aloni told a news conference.

Agriculture Ministry spokesman Roni Hassid told the Associated Press that the water issue had caused "a crisis" in ongoing Israel-PLO talks that began Sunday in the secluded hilltop Zichron Yaakov resort in Israel.

"The issue is very difficult. It is going to cause a lot of problems in the negotiations," he said.

The Palestinians have rejected an Israeli proposal to maintain for the present the existing arrangement under which the Palestinians received only a quarter of the water pumped from underground aquifers in the occupied West Bank.

The West Bank aquifers account for about a third of Israel's total water supply. Israel proposed that substantive discussions on water

rights be postponed until the negotiations on a permanent settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Those negotiations are supposed to start next May.

Israel and the PLO are trying to meet a July 25 target date for agreeing on an Israeli troop withdrawal from West Bank towns and Palestinian elections — the second phase of Palestinian self-rule, which began a year ago in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israel proposed that the two sides concentrate for now on joint management of water resources.

"We are not going to reshare the water," Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsur told the AP. "Together we have to develop new sources of water from desalination and recycling."

The Palestinians are demanding possession of all water resources in the areas which they will control following the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian towns in the West Bank.

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'King, Mubarak to hold summit'

CAIRO (AFP) — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak are to hold a summit meeting soon in Egypt to build on their post-Gulf war reconciliation, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told the radio here Tuesday. Mr. Kabariti told Sawi Al Arab Radio that the two leaders "will continue their talks on the issues they examine" at their last meeting on January 21, in Aqaba. In their Aqaba summit, the two leaders, sealed their reconciliation and agreed to set up close contacts. They also discussed the rift in Arab relations created by the Gulf crisis. Mr. Kabariti gave no date for the new summit. On Sunday, Saudi Arabia announced it would normalise ties with Jordan, following Mr. Kabariti's ground-breaking trip to the Gulf kingdom, the first such visit in five years.

King receives Shas delegation, reaffirms commitment to peace

By Natasha Bukhari

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An influential Israeli pro-peace religious leader Tuesday asked His Majesty King Hussein to help advance the slow-paced Syrian-Israeli peace talks by "trying to convince (Jordan's) neighbours to directly join the peace process," informed sources said.

In a meeting with King Hussein, visiting former Israeli minister of interior and member of Knesset, Rabbi Arie Deri, delivered a letter to King Hussein from the spiritual leader of the Shas party, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, in which the rabbi asked King Hussein to help convince Jordan's "neighbours," alluding to Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad, to enter into direct peace negotiations with Israel.

According to Israeli sources, Rabbi Deri, also a member of Shas, told King Hussein that although "Israel is willing to pay a higher price for peace with Syria," President Assad "is making a mistake if he thinks that he can make peace with Israel without getting the support of Israeli people."

Addressing the delegation at the Royal Court, King Hussein said he would respond to Rabbi Yosef's letter, noting that he believed in "continuous dialogue" as a means for peace-making. "It is our sacred duty to do whatever we can to ensure that the children of Abraham and their descendants will live in

peace and security and work together for a better future for our region, for our people and for the whole world," the King told the group.

"I know what you stand for and what you are trying to achieve. You have my respect and my support," the King said. The King said that Jordan and Israel are on the verge of celebrating the first anniversary of the Washington declaration, which was the "beginning of accomplishing a lifelong dream, seeking God's blessings and the fulfillment of our duties towards generations to come."

"Rest assured that I am totally committed to the cause of peace between us, and I am totally committed to making the real peace, the peace between people... the peace that enables one of us to see another and to realise that our challenges are the same and our hopes are the same," the King said.

King Hussein expressed hope that peace between Jordan and Israel will be a solid cornerstone for a comprehensive peace in the region. King Hussein said he will do whatever possible to contribute towards the creation of the long-sought just and lasting peace.

The Shas member also told King Hussein that his party, which is closely linked to Prime Minister Rabin's government and occupies six seats in the Knesset, believes in

Sudan to evacuate families of embassy staff in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudan is preparing to send home the families of its 40 embassy staff in Egypt amid increased tension in relations between Cairo and Khartoum, embassy spokesman Soliman Abdul Tawab said Tuesday.

He told AFP that the Sudanese government had "decided to repatriate the family members of the diplomatic mission in Cairo, about 250 people, and preparations are already underway."

Three Sudanese diplomats attacked Sunday in Cairo allegedly by Egyptian security agents will also leave the country Wednesday, two for Khartoum.

But First Secretary Abdul Aziz Al Amin Mohammed is to be sent to London for treatment "because his condition is quite serious," Abdul Tawab said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak offered to pay the three's medical costs, but Sudan refused.

The Egyptian media has blamed Sudan for starting things, saying six Egyptian diplomats were set upon and beaten up in Khartoum Saturday, one of them

seriously. Abdul Tawab denied as "baseless" newspaper allegations that three members of Sudan's security forces were behind the June 26 assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

The government daily Al Akhbar Tuesday, quoting sources in Khartoum's security services, named the three as Hashem Mohammad Gad Al Maula, Mohammad Abdul Rehman Al Tayeb and Mohammad Sirag. One was killed in the gun attack, one is still in hospital and a third fled.

Meanwhile, the official Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) said 26 Sudanese nationals had been refused entry to Egypt on arriving at Cairo airport, and turned back even though they had visas.

And it charged that 32 Sudanese were held at the airport for 15 hours before being allowed into the country Sunday.

Egypt only introduced this month entry visa requirements for Sudanese, after relations plunged when Mr. Mubarak accused Sudan of

masterminding the attempt on his life.

And Sudanese officials are to petition Khartoum to expel more than 50 Egyptians working in irrigation offices in southern Sudan, accusing Cairo of backing the leader of Sudan's rebel forces Colonel John Garang, SUNA said.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif said Monday that armed fundamentalists from various countries are training in 50 different locations in Sudan.

Mr. Sherif, cited by Egyptian television, did not identify where the training was taking place, or where the fundamentalists were from.

He said that a report to Egypt's Interior Ministry submitted to the council of ministers Monday, "confirmed the involvement of (security) services of the Sudanese regime in the failed assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak," on June 26 in Addis Ababa.

Relations between Cairo and Khartoum have been strained since Mr. Mubarak accused Sudan's Islamic regime of backing the attempt on his life in Ethiopia.



Linda Barloon, 37, shows a newspaper reporting the release of her husband William Barloon from Iraqi custody. Mr. Barloon and another American, David Daliberti, were released after spending four months in an Iraqi jail for allegedly entering Iraq from Kuwait in March (AFP photo)

Freed Americans to reunite with families

WASHINGTON (R) — Two Americans pardoned and freed by Iraq President Saddam Hussein will be reunited with their families Tuesday after spending four months in prison for wandering across the Kuwait-Iraq border.

David Daliberti, 39, is scheduled to arrive in Washington later Tuesday, accompanied by Representative Bill Richardson, the New Mexico Democrat who brokered his release.

William Barloon, 41, is to fly to Kuwait from Amman, Jordan, to meet his family there.

"Prison is a nightmare," Mr. Daliberti told ABC-TV's Nightline programme in an interview taped in Amman Monday. "It's probably the worst thing that can happen to an American (to) have his freedom taken away."

The two, who work for U.S. defence contractors in Kuwait, were arrested inside Iraq on March 13 while on what they described as a trip to visit friends among U.N.

military observers in the border's demilitarised zone.

They were sentenced in March to eight years in jail for allegedly entering Iraq but President Saddam pardoned them Sunday after serving only four months.

Washington has emphasised that no deals were made to free them.

Both men expressed anger about their imprisonment, but said they were not treated badly by Iraqi authorities.

"We were angry we were imprisoned for four months for nothing," Mr. Daliberti told reporters Monday. But he added: "We were treated fairly... we were not tortured, whipped or beaten."

"We were innocent victims in this chess game," Mr. Barloon said. "A mistake was made at the Kuwait-Iraqi border and we spent four months in an Iraqi prison for it."

Speaking on ABC's Nightline, aired early Tuesday, Mr. Barloon bristled when the two were asked if they

had any links to the Central Intelligence Agency, as Iraq had initially charged.

"There are no ties. My goodness, we're aircraft mechanics," Mr. Barloon replied, adding the charges had been dismissed even by Iraq shortly after their arrest.

Mr. Daliberti, who bails from Florida, and Mr. Richardson arrived in London early Tuesday aboard British Airways Flight 104 and were expected to board a connecting flight to Washington.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton spoke by telephone with the two Americans — both of whom suffered chest and heart problems in jail — and told them he was "ecstatic" at their release, the White House said.

Mr. Daliberti said on Nightline that Iraqi authorities kept an ambulance outside the prison 24 hours a day in case either man suffered a heart attack and needed to be taken to hospital.

Lebanon reiterates ban on protests

BEIRUT (Ageocies) — Lebanon reiterated a ban on public demonstrations, saying security forces had been ordered to use all means to bar workers from taking to the streets Wednesday to protest against a rise in petrol prices.

"The Lebanese army, internal security forces and other security organs were instructed to use all measures and steps to implement the resolution banning demonstrations," Interior Minister Michel Al Murr said after a Monday night cabinet session.

Eight people were killed on Sept. 13, 1993, in Beirut when troops fired into a crowd of Muslim militants marching in defiance of a ban on demonstrations to protest against the signing of the PLO-Israeli peace pact that day.

Shortly before that incident, the government had banned all public demonstrations without its permission.

On Monday, Beirut's General Labour Confedera-

tion said workers would take to the streets during a one-day general strike Wednesday without asking permission.

The strike and protest demonstrations were called to demand that the government roll back tax hikes, including a 38 per cent increase in the price of petrol.

"The issue of the strike and all the big talk about taking to the streets threatens national security. There is consensus that we will not tolerate this matter," Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri told reporters after the cabinet session.

Acting Finance Minister Fouad Siniora said Monday that demonstrations would not make the government change its policy but might have "negative effects" on the situation in Lebanon.

However, Nabih Berri, the powerful speaker of parliament who is an opponent of Mr. Hariri, said he did not oppose strikes and added: "If people want to demonstrate, I am with them."

The federation leader, Elias Abu Rizk, "We're striking and taking to the streets tomorrow to confront the government policy of levying taxes by force. The constitution guarantees the right of public demonstrations."

It was one of the most serious challenges to Mr. Hariri since he came to power amid a 1992 postwar economic crisis that sent the Lebanese pound plummeting to a record low of 3,000 to a U.S. dollar.

The self-made business tycoon who is backed by Syria, Lebanon's main power broker, and Saudi Arabia, the Middle East's financial superpower, has since managed to stabilise the currency's exchange rate at 1,650 to the dollar.

However, Mr. Hariri has been unable to bolster the pound's purchasing power, in a country heavily dependent on imports. This worsened living conditions and tarnished his image as the savior who would make the phoenix rise from the ashes.

Golan's Druze keen to return to Syrian rule

By Sami Aboudi
Reuter

MAJDAL SHAMS, Golan Heights — Um Nazih /1 Shouf shouted through a megaphone across minefields separating her home on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights from her nephews in Syria.

Like thousands of Druze Arabs, she visits the "shouting hill" in Majdal Shams once a week to exchange news of births, weddings and deaths — albeit at a distance.

Soon this may change. The prospect of an Israeli-Syrian peace treaty has raised expectations of an Israeli withdrawal and a return to Syrian rule. Israel says it is willing to return at least some of the Golan in a swap for peace.

But many Druze remain sceptical of Israel's commitment to peace. They worry about plans to hold a nationwide referendum on any withdrawal from the Golan, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

Many shrug off questions about the risk of losing political liberties or a lower standard of living under Syrian rule.

"Perhaps all the luxuries that we have here are not available in Syria, but the quality of life there is much better. At least we will be with our relatives there — with our people," said Milhem Abu Zaid, 28.

Born under Israeli rule, Abu Zaid has never been to Syria. But he dreams of returning to Syrian rule. "If you work hard enough, like we do here,

we will live well," he said.

The Golan's 18,000 Druze are part of a secretive Islamic sect in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. A hard-working people, they live in four villages nestled in the green foothills of snow-capped Mount Hermon.

They are a fiercely nationalist people, quick to talk about their role in fighting Ottoman and later French rule of Syria.

When Israel's parliament imposed Israeli law on their volcano-pocked plateau in December 1981, they went on a six-month strike in protest. They rejected Israeli citizenship.

In the centre of Majdal Shams, the largest of the four villages, stands a human-sized statue of Sultan Pasha Al Atash brandishing a sword. A Druze warrior, Atash led

a 1925 revolt against French rule.

The Druze have prospered from work in Israel and a thriving apple farming business that brings handsome revenues. Lush apple orchards surround the four villages.

Although many are fluent in Hebrew, they tell of experiencing discrimination when they leave the Golan for jobs in the all-Jewish Israeli towns of Kiryat Shmona and Safed.

Residents tell of Jewish government officials hesitating to provide services to them. They say police stop young men for random identity-card checks.

They accuse Israeli secret police of monitoring their activity, cracking down on peaceful demonstrations with brutal force and jailing pro-Syrian nationalists for political

activity.

"Even if Syria was a dictatorship, as they say, for us it would be much better than living under Israeli rule," said Hassan Fakhr Al Deen, a nationalist.

Mr. Fakhr Al Deen, who openly favours Syrian rule, says Israeli authorities fired him from his job as a teacher because of his role in the 1981-82 strike. He was jailed for several months for his political activity.

The University Graduates Club, which groups nationalist intellectuals in the Golan, says 1,166 Druze have been jailed at one time or another for anti-Israeli political activity since 1967.

But they say there have been some changes in the attitudes of Israeli security forces since Israeli-Syrian peace talks began

in 1991. About 30 are in jail today.

Israeli police now turn a blind eye to overt displays of Syrian flags and public affiliation with Syria. Some Druze openly sport stickers on their cars depicting an apple in the colours of the Syrian flag and inscribed with the words "the Golan is Arab, Syrian."

Israel let several Golan dignitaries travel to Damascus to offer condolences to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad after his eldest son Basil died in a car accident in January 1994.

In Syria, I felt I was with my people, with my relatives. Although it was the first time I had been to Syria in 27 years, I felt as if I had never left the country," said Mr. Fakhr Al Deen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fahd urges aid to Bosnian Muslims

DUBAI (R) — Saudi King Fahd is calling on world leaders to defend Bosnia's Muslims and has donated \$13 million to help alleviate their suffering, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Tuesday. It said the donation was to help the Muslims "face the (Bosnian) Serb iniquitous aggression." It said King Fahd told his cabinet Monday he would send messages to heads of members states of the United Nations Security Council asking that the "council and world community stand up to their responsibilities in the face of the unfair Serb aggression." He would also ask them "to defend Bosnia, which is a United Nations member state, by helping it to exercise its right to self-defence according to... the U.N. charter," effectively calling on the U.N. to lift an embargo preventing the Bosnian government from obtaining arms abroad. SPA said the king also welcomed a planned meeting in Morocco Friday of the contact group of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). At a meeting in May the OIC contact group on Bosnia — Morocco, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt and Malaysia — repeated its view that a U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia Muslims was not morally valid and hinted that some of its members might ignore it.

Kuwait, Iran to demarcate sea border

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Iran are due to start negotiations shortly to demarcate their sea border, a member of parliament said in brief remarks published Tuesday. Abdul Aziz Al Adani, spokesman of the parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, added that Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah would also visit Saudi Arabia shortly to hold talks on demarcating Kuwait's border with the kingdom. Mr. Adani made the announcements after the committee was briefed by Sheikh Sabah on a number of foreign policy issues. Sheikh Sabah was reported Sunday as saying that he had been exchanging letters for some time on the possible demarcation of the Kuwait-Saudi border with Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz. Members of Kuwait's parliament have said demarcating the sea border with their large southern neighbour would pave the way for an agreement on territorial waters with Iran. Over the years some Kuwaiti fishing boats have been seized by Iran due to the lack of a defined sea border, MPs say. Oil experts said there were no major known oil reserves straddling the Iran-Kuwait border, but Saudi Arabia and Kuwait share a major oilfield off the so-called neutral zone between the two countries.

Tajik president holds talks in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov has met Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Tehran and discussed ways of boosting ties with Iran, Iranian media said. But a leader for the Muslim-led Tajik opposition said he did not expect Tehran to change its policy and start backing the Dushanbe government which is dominated by former Communists. Mr. Rakhmonov's visit is the first by a Tajik president to Iran since 1992 when ex-Communists expelled opposition forces from Tajikistan in a civil war that killed at least 50,000 people. Mr. Rafsanjani and Rakhmonov discussed cultural, political and economic cooperation and the establishment of an air link between Tehran and Dushanbe, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said. The talks were followed up by experts in five committees, the daily newspaper Kayhan said. Akbar Torjonzoda, a Tehran-based opposition leader, told Reuters by telephone Iranian officials had given assurances that any "agreements with Dushanbe" would be conditional on continued progress towards peace.

Turkish flood death toll hits 59

SENIRKENT, Turkey (AP) — The death toll from a flash flood which swept through this southern town last week rose to 59, after rescue workers recovered more bodies, state television said. Eleven more bodies were still trapped, it said. Senirkent is 400 kilometres (240 miles) southwest of the capital Ankara.

Qatar's new emir pardons prisoners

DUBAI (R) — Qatar pardoned 332 prisoners and detainees to mark the occasion of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani taking power as emir of the wealthy Gulf state. The Qatar News Agency reported the pardons but gave no details. Sheikh Hamad, who is also prime minister, ousted his father in a bloodless coup in late June.

Imran Khan in Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — World-renowned cricketer Imran Khan arrived in this Red Sea port city Monday evening from London with his blonde bride Jemima, daughter of British tycoon James Goldsmith. Prince Faisal bin Mukrin gave the newlyweds a warm welcome on their first visit together to Islam's holiest shrines. Khan's Jewish-born wife said she converted to Islam after she met the legendary cricketer and studied his faith. "It was at the insistence of Jemima that we've come here," Khan said. "I've been here before, but Jemima's keen to learn about the holy places after embracing Islam." His wife arrived wearing a traditional Arab-Muslim dress with a black abaya, or cloak, and a scarf partially covering her head, as required by Islamic teachings. During their five-day stay in Saudi Arabia, the couple are scheduled to perform Umra, or out-of-season pilgrimage at Mecca, and also say prayers at the Prophet Mohammad's mosque in Medina, about 250 miles (400 kilometres) from Jeddah. The couple will then leave for Pakistan for the first time since their wedding in London several weeks ago.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Problem Child
14:30 Super Changes
15:00 Tomorrow's World
15:30 Amazing Stories
16:00 Families
17:00 Naissance D'Une Science
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35
20:00 Arthur Clarke's Mysterious Universe
20:05 Anything for a Laugh
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Blood and Belonging
22:00 News in English
22:25 Prison
23:05 The Jacksons
23:30 Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less

PRAYER TIMES

04:06 Fajr
05:17 Sunrise
12:42 Dhuhur
16:22 Asr
19:46 Maghrib
21:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Teresian Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 752261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assunta International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 650922

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

WEATHER

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly becoming around average with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 19/32
Aqaba 25/39
Deserts 17/35
Jordan Valley 24/38

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nassim Karadabeh 759200
Dr. Nidal Dahleh 827195
Dr. Bahjat Daboubi 767571
Dr. Bahjat Daboubi 849362
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 718336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Smeisat pharmacy 637640
Nairokh pharmacy 625672
Najib pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:

Dr. Akram Al Momani 248795
Al Quds pharmacy 905417

ZARQA:

Dr. Issa Omeri 901266
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 894390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815415

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6429116
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 6424112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafes, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisat 6641714
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
Al-Munasher Hospital 845845
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ah, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, J. Amn 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)990660
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
BRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727273
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
06:30 Madras (RJ)
06:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
06:30 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
06:30 Sanaa (RJ)
06:30 Dhahran (RJ)
06:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
06:30 Rome (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Other Flights (Terminal 2)
10:50 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)
13:15 Doha (EK)
13:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Rome (RJ)
06:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
06:30 Berlin, London (RJ)
06:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
06:30 Istanbul (RJ)
06:30 Colombo (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Riyadh (RJ)
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13:15 Doha (EK)
13:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Amman 5.00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5.00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7.30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5.00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fcs per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana (Mukammal) 680
Cabbage 120/80
Carrot 220/140
Cauliflower 350/250
Cucumbers (large) 120/80
Cucumbers (small) 220/150
Eggplant 170/40
Garlic 430/330
Grapes 530/450
Lemon 140/90
Marrow (large) 120/80
Marrow (small) 230/140
Mulukhia 120/80
Okra 180/100
Onion (dry) 170/100
Peas 350/250
Pepper (hot) 500/400
Pepper (sweet) 200/150
Potato 330/220
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Water Melon 100/50

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London (B4)

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RAILWAY

6:00 a.m. even Mon

6:00 p.m. even Mon

7:30 a.m. even Sat

ET PRICES

price in flls per kg

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Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Tuesday is briefed by principals involved in the Economic Development through Technical Skills Project (Petra photo)

Princess Sarvath opens office of Economic Development through Technical Skills Project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Tuesday officially opened the office of the Economic Development through Technical Skills Project (EDTSP), which is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and managed by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), according to a Royal Court statement.

This office, staffed by a project director and coordinator, is responsible for support of the EDTSP activities in Jordan and is housed in the National Centre for Human Resources Development (NCHRD), previously the National Centre for Educational Research and Development.

During the ceremony, the Princess was briefed on the objectives of NCHRD and the ACCC's Middle East operations. With special emphasis on two Jordanian-based projects which the Canadian association administers on behalf of CIDA: the EDTSP Project and the Learning Difficulties Project (LDP).

NCHRD President Mianthar Masri pointed to the role of the centre in improving the effectiveness of the education system, in coordinating projects and transferring educational innovation, in the institutionalisation of educational reform and in improving national capacities in planning, research and evaluation.

Dr. Masri informed Princess Sarvath that, in the future, the centre will concentrate on human resource development with special emphasis on technical and vocational education and training.

This shift in emphasis for the centre is the reason for its name change, and is one reason for its housing the office for the EDTSP project, the statement added.

ACCC Vice President for Development and Field Operations Neja Gorica presented an overview of the activities which the association manages on behalf of CIDA in Jordan, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Yemen, which include projects in education, health, economic reform, agriculture and fisheries.

According to the statement, Mr. Gorica stressed the importance ACCC places on increasing the perceived value of technical education and training and improving the links between industry and education to strengthen the skills of the emerging labour force.

ACCC/EDTSP Project Director Nancy George, explained that the purpose of the project, which has as primary partners the Vocational Training Corporation and the Ministry of Higher Education, is to assist the government of Jordan in adopting a coherent policy and plan which meets the technical and vocational needs of government, business, industry and labour.

Dr. George identified the highlight of the project as the Canadian involvement in assisting Jordan's rationali-

sation of technical and vocational education and training which includes Canada-based training for over 70 Jordanians and provision of more than 75-person-months of Canadian technical expertise in Jordan.

She pointed out that the EDTSP project's objectives were complementary to the government of Jordan's action plan for the Human Resource Development Sector Investment Loan, and observed that the implementation of several activities in Jordan's action plan are contingent upon the leadership role Canada is providing through the EDTSP project and the implementation of the recommendations arising from its activities.

Although the EDTSP office is new, Canadian association has previously been involved with Princess Sarvath Community College, the statement said.

Dean of the college Radi Waqfi explained to the guests at the ceremony that the Learning Difficulties Project was designed to strengthen the institutional capacity of the college and its centre of excellence for learning difficulties.

He then briefed Princess Sarvath on the current status of the Learning Difficulties Project, informing her that nine Jordanian educators who have completed their training in Canada continue to receive assistance from Canadian specialists, and that the diagnostic programme at the Princess Sarvath Community College will begin in November, 1995.

Ministry, HCO ship aid to Bosnia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday sent the first consignment of relief aid to Bosnia in implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein, according to an official statement.

The shipment, consisting of medical equipment, drugs, infant formula, bandages and other medical requirements, was organised by the Ministry of Health and sent off by plane in cooperation with the Hashemite Charity Organisation (HCO) and the Jordan Armed Forces.

King Hussein has been in

contact with world leaders on the situation in Bosnia in recent days, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged the HCO to step up efforts to raise contributions for the embattled Bosnian people.

Minister of Health Aref Batayneh, who supervised the shipping of the consignment, said that a second shipment with more medical supplies will soon be flown to Bosnia adding that his ministry will do all it can to organise more shipments and other forms of aid to meet the requirements of the

victims of aggression.

The minister noted that apart from the HCO, the private sector in Jordan along with the Royal Medical Services helped in organising the first shipment.

The HCO was entrusted by Prince Hassan to organise aid shipments to various Arab and non-Arab Muslim countries in the past.

Jordan Television is presenting a special programme on Friday to obtain contributions from citizens and organisations to help the Bosnian people.

Queen stresses employment generation as a key to lasting, prosperous peace

Amman (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday chaired the closing session of the three-day preparatory meeting organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the International Commission on Peace and Food (ICPF), according to a Royal Court Statement.

Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt are cooperating with ICPF and the NHF on a project called "Human Security in the Middle East," the statement said.

The next phase of this project involves extensive research by the working groups on regional economic cooperation, employment generation, food security, human resource development, and peace, cooperative security and development.

The resultant findings and recommendations, which will be presented at a larger conference in Amman next year, will propose practical projects to create jobs and advance human development, the statement said.

"This meeting has been called to initiate a process of collaborative thinking and cooperative action," Queen Noor said, as she commended members of the ICPF, participants from the region as well as regional and international experts on their valuable research and their informative recommendations "to forge a common perspective and to identify practical measures to further the peace process and to promote human security throughout the region," the statement quoted the Queen as saying.

In her concluding remarks, Queen Noor spoke of the critical importance of employment generation as "an essential condition for building a lasting, stable, and prosperous peace. As we have found in our own experience, employment is particularly important to promote the empowerment of women, perhaps the most under-utilised resource for development in our region," she said.

Employment, the Queen added, must be coupled with

"the educational backgrounds and productive skills needed to meet the standards required by the international market...We in Jordan have come to realise that the rapid and full development of the talents and capacities of our people is the most important task before us."

Queen Noor called for "an intensive effort to promote more productive commercial agriculture to help meet our food needs, diminish the dependence on imports, stimulate exports of value-added products and generate hundreds and thousands of new jobs."

According to the statement, the Queen called for mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the region, saying "cooperation is the only formula for continuous economic growth and prosperity."

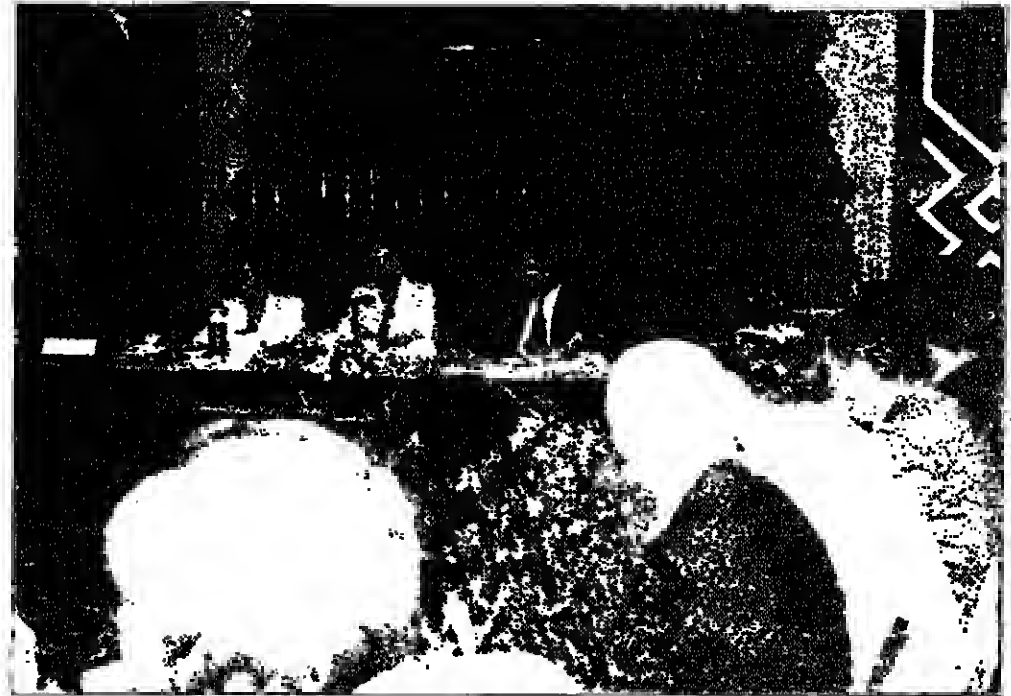
Secretary of the ICPF Gary Jacobs thanked Queen Noor for supporting this project and for presenting the commission's report to the United Nations last year, the statement said.

Dr. Jacobs commended participants for the quality and clarity of their work, the statement added.

He urged the participants to remain flexible and adaptive, in preparation for the research phase, to new developments and to prioritise their recommendations on the basis of workability and time-frames.

Also, according to the statement, Dr. Jacobs urged the participants to present proposals to the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit.

The ICPF, of which Queen Noor is a member, is an independent, non-political, non-profit organisation of political leaders, heads of international agencies, scientists and other professionals. It was founded in 1989 to redirect resources from the armaments race into programmes to promote peace, democracy, food security and employment.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday chairs the final session of a preparatory meeting for a proposed project on human security in the Middle East (photo by Crystal)

Queen opens 15th Arab Children's Congress

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opened the 15th Arab Children's Congress (ACC), this year entitled, "Solidarity and Tolerance in Arab Culture," at the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman, a Royal Court statement said.

The 1995 ACC, which is organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), and held in cooperation with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and UNESCO's Regional Office for Education in the Arab states (UNEDBAS), coincides with the 50th anniversary of UNESCO and its International Culture of Peace Festivals for Children.

The Arab Children's Congress, initiated by Queen Noor in 1980, brings together children from throughout the Arab World to promote dialogue and exchange ideas in order to forge bonds of friendship between them, while fostering creativity, reflection and action on global issues, according to the statement.

During the one-week congress, the children will visit Jordan's archaeological sites and cultural centres, attend the opening ceremony of the Jerash Festival on Wednesday with Queen Noor and participate in daily workshops on water shortage, population growth, pollution, protection of the environment, peaceful resolutions of conflicts, children's rights, solidarity and tolerance.

At the closing ceremony of the congress, the children will draft and present an appeal to their peers and to world leaders of their evaluations and recommendations.

UNESCO, UNEDBAS and NHF will issue a book of the children's artistic and literary works which will be distributed in all Arab countries.

The NHF will also publish a yearly magazine consisting of children's productions, views and recommendations, the statement said.

A sculpture depicting tolerance, produced by the children during the congress, and a video tape highlighting their major activities will be presented during UNESCO's 1995 November General Conference Exhibition in Paris.

Also according to the report, the 1995 Arab Children's Congress was funded by contributions from UNESCO, UNEDBAS and several local organisations: the Industrial Development Bank, the Arab Potash Company, the Cement Factory and Phosphate Company.

Speaking on behalf of the NHF, Lina Tal, director of the Arab Children's Congress, welcomed the participating children to Jordan.

Over the last 14 years, she said, the total number of ACC participants has reached 1,000, some of whom have gone on to pursue university education and to occupy leadership positions in their countries, the statement said.

Queen Noor was received by Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri, NHF Acting Director Abdullah Hindawi, members of the NHF Board of Trustees and members of the preparatory committee for the Arab Children's Congress.



Aqaba Region Authority President Fayez Khasawneh (centre) and National Contracting Company General Manager Awmi Saket (right) Tuesday sign a contract for the infrastructure work in two Aqaba housing projects (Petra photo)

Local firm wins JD 4.5m infrastructure contract

AQABA (Petra) — A local construction firm, National Contracting Company, has won a JD 4.5 million contract from the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) to lay the infrastructure work for two housing estates in Aqaba.

ARA President Fayez Khasawneh, who signed the contract with the company's general manager, Awmi Saket, said that the infrastructure will extend over 1,080 dunums and will include roads, pavements, water, electricity, telephone and sewage networks.

The infrastructure will

serve the seventh and eighth housing estates of the port city, and a tender for the infrastructure of the ninth estate will be floated in August, another for the tenth housing district will go out by mid-September.

Following the signing of the contract, Dr. Khasawneh said that the seventh housing estate will be set up on 330 dunums of land which is to be divided into 181 plots each ranging between 500 and 7,500 square metres in area. The seventh housing estate will include a green belt, shopping centres, schools and gardens within a total

area of 53 dunums.

Dr. Khasawneh said that ARA expects 550 housing units to be set up within this estate to house 3,000 inhabitants.

Referring to the eighth housing estate, Dr. Khasawneh said that it will be set up on 750 dunums and will be divided into 617 plots ranging in area between 500 and 1,000 square metres.

Up to 1,264 housing units are expected to be set up within this eighth estate for at least 6,700 inhabitants, according to Dr. Khasawneh.

Ministry holds symposium on drug abuse in Jordan

Amman (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi Tuesday opened a one-day symposium on fighting drug abuse in Jordan.

Dr. Abbadi called for intensifying and mobilising national efforts to protect Jordan from the damaging consequences of drug abuse. The minister said that Islam

considers drug abuse a crime.

Dr. Abbadi listed unemployment as one of the causes for drug abuse.

Colonel Nazih Shraideh of the Anti-Narcotic and Forgery Control Department, said that most of the 369 people arrested during the first six months of this year on charges of drug

abuse and its circulation are young people.

According to figures provided by Col. Shraideh, 2,170 kilograms of hashish, 9,900 kilograms of hashish oil, 1,581 kilograms of heroine, 6,400 kilograms of hashish dust and 16 kilograms of cocaine, were confiscated during the reported period.

Prosecutor general shelve allegations by former minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has decided to shelve documents containing accusations made by former Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas over alleged expired food and drugs on sale in Jordanian markets.

In January 1994 the former minister made statements to the press accusing merchants of importing bad food and drugs that were unfit for human consumption and for sale to the public. He later repeated the accusations before parliament.

Dr. Malhas said then that he had noticed that the prices of drugs had risen sharply upon his assumption of office, that control over drugs imported and sold in the Kingdom was lax and that foodstuffs were sold in the local markets long after their expiry dates.

He had also said that he had referred numerous cases of public health violations to the concerned courts, according to the prosecutor general.

The prosecutor general said that after thoroughly examining the documents and considering the witnesses' testimonies, including Dr. Malhas himself, he could not determine that particular crimes or violations had been committed and that neither could he pinpoint suspects since Dr. Malhas' statements had been too general.

Since thorough investigations had not revealed any violations punishable by court, the prosecutor general said he had decided to shelve the documents.

Following the prosecutor general's statement, Health Minister Aref Batayneh said that this decision was expected simply because the Health Ministry is fully committed to laws and regulations which tolerate no violations or excesses.

Asked about the prosecutor general's decision, Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times that he had no comment.

With great sadness, the management and associates of the Amman Marriott Hotel mourn the passing away of Mrs. Sheree Lyon's father in Australia, and extend their sincerest condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lyon and the family.

May his soul rest in peace.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

*Concert by Mustafa Shi'sha'a and Suhair Odeh at the Southern Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

*"The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

*"The Civil War: The Valley of the Shadow of Death, 1864," at the American Centre, at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURES

*"Before writing: from counting to cuneiform," by Denise Schmandt-Besserat at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) at 7:00 p.m.

*"Abdul Rahman Munif — the art of storytelling," at Darat al Funun, Jahal Weibdeh at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITION

*Exhibition in honour of Palestinian intifada victims and detainees at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

'Burundi leaders committed to peace' Pentagon defends B-2 bomber

ADDIS ABABA (R) — U.N. chief Boutros Ghali ended his Africa tour Tuesday saying he was sure that leaders in Burundi were committed to reconciliation and avoiding an ethnic bloodbath as suffered by Rwanda.

"I am convinced that there is a political will among the leaders of the Burundi community to consolidate national reconciliation and avoid conflicts," Dr. Ghali told a news conference before flying to Geneva to focus his attention on the worsening crisis in Bosnia.

The U.N. chief said his talks in Burundi, which has the same ethnic makeup as Rwanda where up to one million people died in ethnic killings last year, centred on how to make peace between members of the Hutu and Tutsi tribes.

"I had constructive and positive discussions with all Burundi leaders including the military, the opposition and the government," Dr. Ghali said.

During his visit he announced an inquiry into 22 months of slaughter that followed the assassination of Burundi's first freely-elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, by Tutsi troops in October 1993.

Some 50,000 people were killed in the two months after



U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali (3rd right) is greeted by a dance in Bujumbura. Dr. Ghali left Burundi after announcing the creation of a commission of inquiry into the

Mr. Ndadaye's death and tens of thousands have died since then.

The inquiry was the only result to emerge from Dr. Ghali's talks with Burundi's feuding parties but diplomats said it alone would not stop killings.

The secretary-general said he held talks with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi on the political situation on the

world's poorest continent. Mr. Meles is current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

He said he had in particular discussed with Mr. Meles and OAU chief Salim Ahmed Salim the poor ties between Egypt and neighbouring Sudan.

The two countries have been locked in a war of words since a failed assassination attempt on Egyptian Presi-

dent Hosni Mubarak last month.

Dr. Ghali defended his decision to go ahead with the African tour despite the crisis in Bosnia.

"The visit was a demonstration that the U.N. was paying the same attention to African problems as it was playing to European problems such as in former Yugoslavia."

WASHINGTON (R) — The Defence Department has defended its B-2 Stealth bomber and disputed a General Accounting Office (GAO) draft report that said its radar-eluding and low-flying characteristics still have to be proven.

Paul Kaminski, defence undersecretary for acquisition and technology, reiterated in a statement that the department will not procure more B-2 bombers in fiscal year 1996 but said the decision "doesn't reflect any dissatisfaction with the plane's performance."

A study concluded in May confirmed that the planned force of 20 B-2 bombers could meet the national security requirements of two

nearly simultaneous major regional military conflicts.

Mr. Kaminski said the bomber's radar was performing in rain as expected and there was no indication that the "radar's performance while flying through rain will not fully meet requirements."

He also said testing to date had not revealed any areas that would prevent the B-2 from meeting its operational Stealth requirements, although he noted that the next group of bombers to be delivered would include several improvements to the Stealth design.

Mr. Kaminski also disputed findings in the report that the surface of the B-2 had been dented or distorted

in rain, saying the plane had a special rain erosion coating designed to absorb the impact of rain at high speeds.

It was designed to wear away over time and be replaced during routine ground maintenance periods, he said.

Mr. Kaminski said he believed the B-2 development programme was making good progress, and tight testing was due to be completed in late summer 1997 "to meet the programme's combat capability commitments."

He said the department received the draft GAO report on July 10 and had not yet fully studied its contents. The Pentagon has until July 25 to respond to the report.

Japan Socialists set for poll defeat

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's troubled Socialist Party faces defeat in Japan's upper house polls on Sunday and this may trigger a political upheaval, according to a voter survey by a leading daily.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun survey of 38,000 voters published Tuesday said Mr. Murayama's three-party coalition is unlikely to win more than 75 of the 126 seats at stake, his stated goal for the bloc.

His Socialist Party would stop just short of 20 seats, less than Mr. Murayama's target of 22, according to the survey conducted between July 14 and 16. The Socialists won 22 seats in the last upper house polls in 1992.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) can expect about 50 seats and the opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) about 30, the survey said.

But Nihon Keizai said 25 per cent of voters were undecided and the result de-

pend largely on a growing group of voters without clear party loyalties.

Sunday's polls will be the first national-level elections since the LDP lost its 40-year stranglehold on power in 1993 general elections.

Half of the 252-member upper house, the less powerful of the two chambers, is up for election. Seats are held for six-year terms and half are contested every three years.

After spending a frustrating year in opposition, in June 1994 the LDP formed an unwieldy coalition with long-time ideological foes, Mr. Murayama's Socialists, and a small LDP splinter group, Sakigake, to regain a foothold on power.

The Socialists are deeply split after Mr. Murayama scrapped his party's traditional leftist tenets like opposition to the military and to the U.S.-Japan security treaty.

While Mr. Murayama has repeatedly stated his party's goal was attaining 22 seats,

he has not clearly linked the possibility of his resignation to any figure.

Socialist leaders say he would have to go if the party suffered a "crushing" defeat, without stating a figure.

The daily Mainichi Shimbun reported that a growing consensus among Tokyo lawmakers in general was that Mr. Murayama was sure to stay if the Socialists won more than 15 seats while he would step down if they failed to return at least 10 seats. The "gray zone" was between 11 and 14 Socialist winners, the daily said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Murayama offered formal apologies to World War II "comfort women" Tuesday, saying the wartime sex atrocities his country committed were "inexcusable."

"I offer my profound apology to all those who, as wartime comfort women, suffered emotional and physical wounds that can never be closed," Mr. Murayama said in a statement.

Simpson's doctor undergoes searing cross-examination; Jurors see video

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors turned O.J. Simpson's trial court into a screening room, showing jurors scenes of Simpson marching, squatting and swinging his arms in exercise videotapes filmed less than three weeks before the murders of his ex-wife and her friend.

More footage of the tapes, on which Simpson complained about his bad knees, was to be played Tuesday. The viewing capped a day in which Simpson's doctor was subjected to searing cross-examination about Simpson's arthritis, his football injuries and whether he had the physical capability to kill.

Dr. Robert Huizenga acknowledged Monday that when he examined Simpson, the ex-football star had seven small abrasions on the back of his left hand in addition to three cuts on the middle and ring fingers.

Dr. Huizenga, whose cross-examination included courtroom demonstrations, also said Simpson's arthritis would not have prevented him from yanking back his ex-wife's head by her blond hair and slashing her throat, as long as she was immobilised.

Under attack by a prosecutor who accused him of being an advocate for Simpson, the doctor acknowledged that while Simpson had severe physical limitations, none would have prevented him from attacking his ex-wife and her friend, Ronald Gold-

man. At the end of the day, jurors paid rapt attention to the video. They took notes and never cracked even the slightest of smiles at Simpson's many joking ad libs. Simpson shrugged, smiled and conferred with his lawyers while watching a monitor at the defence counsel table. Occasionally, his family members giggled at some of Simpson's banter on the tape.

The raw footage that went into what later became the "O.J. Simpson minimum maintenance fitness for men" was shown on the courtroom screen and included three camera angles of the same scene along with a time counter.

The tape wasn't shown to TV viewers.

Introduced by prosecutors seeking to rebut defence claims that Mr. Simpson's old football injuries would have hampered his strength and physical movement, the tape shows Simpson having little difficulty performing most stretches and exercises.

"I'm feeling so good now I want to dance," Mr. Simpson says at one point.

But in other places, while kneeling into a football-like stance and stretching his legs, he complains about his bad joints. "This is something I would have a problem with because of my knees," he says.

Prosecutor Brian Kelberg's cross-examination aimed to undermine a defence claim

that Simpson was so debilitated that he could not have stabbed and slashed the victims to death in front of Ms. Simpson's Brentwood condominium June 12, 1994.

Simpson, who has maintained his innocence, faces life in prison if convicted of the murders.

Striving to link scrapes or scratches on the back of Mr. Simpson's left hand with the murders, Mr. Kelberg had the doctor leave the witness stand, hugged him from behind and showed how a killer might have restrained Gold-

man. The prosecutor suggested the assailant's hand could have been wounded by Goldman's struggling and pulling off the killer's glove.

The doctor said it was "possible."

In contrast, Dr. Huizenga said Simpson's right hand showed no abrasions. A left-handed glove was found at the murder scene, its right-handed mate at Simpson's estate.

Dr. Huizenga also was asked if the cuts could have accounted for blood drops found in the foyer and on the driveway at Simpson's estate.

The doctor said that was conceivable but noted, "I've ever seen someone cut themselves and just let it bleed." Usually, he said, patients wrap such a wound immediately.

Jurors occasionally took notes and often looked at their own hands during Dr. Huizenga's testimony.

Italian ex-minister faces trial on mafia charges

ROME (Agencies) — A judge ordered ex-Interior Minister Antonio Gava Tuesday to stand trial on charges of corruption and mafia association, adding to the list of former Italian leaders accused of complicity with organised crime.

Mr. Gava, 64, who was interior minister from 1988 to 1991, denies wrongdoing.

Judicial sources said Mr. Gava and four former parliamentarians were among the 81 people that Naples Preliminary Hearing Judge Antonio Sensale remanded for trial. The trial was scheduled to start on Nov. 28.

The investigation into Mr. Gava, who held several ministerial positions in his long career as a Christian Democrat, involved links between politicians and the Camorra, the local mafia in Naples.

Prosecutors in Milan Tuesday issued their second arrest warrant in a week against former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who fled to Tunisia a year ago and has been sentenced in absentia to 14 years in jail for corruption.

The warrant was delivered by the prosecutor's office to the Italian police in connection with an investigation of a kickback scheme by the power company Enel, according to court sources here.

Taiwan MPs brawl over election law

TAIPEI (R) — Legislators in Taiwan's parliament jumped on to the speaker's desk and pummeled and shoved each other in a brawl over a law to pave the way for the island's first presidential elections, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Opposition New Party legislator Ju Gau-Jeng, known as "Taiwan's Rambo" for his fights in parliament, rushed to the speaker's podium, leaped on top of the speaker's desk and then dived from the desk on to a crowd of ruling Nationalist Party legislators.

State television showed several Nationalist legislators landing punches on Mr. Ju's face, knocking his spectacles off and sending him reeling backwards in the brawl late Monday night. Other lawmakers also pushed and shoved each other.

"Four New Party legislators are injured," New Party whip Lee Ching-Hwa told Reuters by telephone. "We will fight this until the end," he added.

Legislators objected to Article 23 of what is to be Taiwan's first bill on presidential elections. It stipulated that the government is to control the process by which independent candidates raise signatures to qualify to run for president.

Delayed by the scuffle, the article did not pass Monday and due to be debated again in parliament spokesman said.

Opposition legislators say that independent candidates should have the right to collect signatures free from the government's supervision.

It was the second brawl in parliament in less than a week, marking a further setback for efforts to clean up a legislature which has drawn increasing domestic criticism.

Rowdy behaviour became common in parliament after an authoritarian system set up by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek began to crumble in the late 1980s, allowing the

rise of an opposition movement.

A senior Nationalist Party figure told state television after the brawl that the party might be willing to compromise on Article 23 but he did not indicate how.

"We could make some concession on this," said Liag Hwu-Peng, director-general of the Department of Party-Government Coordination in the legislative Yuan.

Legislators Monday did manage to pass seven articles of the presidential elections bill, the slow reading of which has already caused an extension to the legislature's six-month session which had been due to wind up last Friday.

The presidential polls, scheduled for March 1996, represent a zenith for democratic reforms in Taiwan which began with the lifting of martial law in 1987. Incumbent President Lee Teng-Hui is thought likely to run.

Cambodian army retakes base

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Government troops have recaptured a key military position in the northwest province of Battambang captured by Khmer Rouge guerrillas earlier this month, the official news service Agence Khmer de Presse (AKP) reported Tuesday.

The hamlet of Treng, the last government outpost on National Route 10, the road leading from the provincial capital of Battambang to the Khmer Rouge stronghold at Pailin, was taken by the rebels on July 4.

On July 10, most of the 400 to 500 guerrillas holding the

base withdrew to reinforce positions near the Thai border that are still under heavy attack from the military.

The army was slowed in its advance on the nearly empty village by landmines and booby traps left by the retreating guerrillas, police and military officials said. AKP said Treng was fully occupied and controlled by the government Sunday.

Twelve government troops were killed in the effort to retake the position which lies about 42 kilometres south-west of Battambang town, AKP said.

Meanwhile in an effort to stem a growing tide of defections, the leaders of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction have ordered that the families of those who switch sides be killed, according to military officials in the northern province of Siem Reap and recent defections.

The policy was enacted in late 1994 after the passage of a law outlawing the group led to a growing number of guerrillas to defect before a January amnesty deadline. Officials told the Cambodia Daily newspaper that the faction's deadly policy was intended to intimidate others from defecting.

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China: ties hinge on meeting with U.S.

BEIJING (Agencies) — A meeting between the foreign ministers of China and the United States next month will determine whether battered Sino-U.S. relations can recover, a senior Chinese official said Tuesday.

Scheduled talks between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during an Asian regional conference in Brunei will be the first high-level meeting between the two nations since relations soured over Taiwan in June.

Beijing earlier had snubbed U.S. offers of high-level talks, saying the United States must first take concrete steps to repair ties.

"Whether there will be a turning point in Sino-U.S. relations is something to be decided by the meetings between the two foreign ministers in Brunei," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told a regular news briefing.

"It all hinges upon the results of the talks," Mr. Shen said, adding that unspecified concrete steps were still needed.

Sino-U.S. relations soured dramatically in June after Washington ended an unofficial ban on contacts with leaders of Beijing's rival Taipei by allowing Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui to make a private visit to his U.S. alma mater.

Ties have been battered further by disputes over trade, the detention of a U.S. human rights activist in Chi-

na and allegations — strongly denied — that China has exported missile components to Iran.

Washington has welcomed the Aug. 1 meeting, to take place when Mr. Christopher and Mr. Qian are in Brunei to observe the annual conference of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The talks had earlier been in doubt because Beijing has cancelled several high-level meetings after Mr. Lee's U.S. visit.

"We're going through a very rough patch," U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters in Washington Monday.

"We've said it all along...that there was no substitute for high-level contact between the two governments and it was just this kind of meeting that is now planned for Brunei that we had in mind," Mr. Burns said.

But Mr. Shen said Mr. Gao's Aug. 1 meeting with Mr. Christopher would not guarantee an improvement.

"If the U.S. side continues...to violate the principles enshrined in the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques, I believe this will further impair Sino-U.S. relations," he said.

China says the communiques bar official contacts between the United States and nationalist-ruled Taiwan and a visit by a leader as senior as Mr. Lee should be considered official.

China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since

the Nationalists fled there after losing the civil war in 1949.

Chinese officials who have worked to isolate Taiwan diplomatically fear President Bill Clinton's decision to allow Mr. Lee's visit marked a shift in the policy on China.

In a radio interview Monday, Mr. Christopher repeated, as U.S. officials have done almost daily in recent weeks, that Washington "has made no change in its policy toward China."

"We continue to follow the three communiques (and) accept the fact that there is a single China," he said. "We will not advocate a two-China policy."

Ties between Beijing and Washington were strained further on June 19 when China detained prominent Chinese-American human rights activists Harry Wu, accusing him of espionage.

Mr. Burns said Mr. Christopher would raise Mr. Wu's case during the Brunei meeting.

China rejected Tuesday as "out of the question" the possibility of resuming talks with Taiwan, suspended last month by Beijing in protest against Taipei's efforts to win broader international recognition.

"So far the resumption of the talks is out of the question," Mr. Shen said referring to negotiations between China's semi-official Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and its Taiwanese counterpart.

At previous summits in Seattle and Bogor, Taiwan has attended as a "regional economy" and been represented by a minister.

Another tragedy hits Russian circus

MANILA (R) — A llama belonging to a Russian circus stranded in the southern Philippines died of massive diarrhoea in the latest tragedy to hit the ill-starred troupe, circus officials said Tuesday. The llama died last week, the sixth performing animal of the All-Star Russian Circus to die this year, bear trainer Marina Avramova said by telephone from southern Davao City. Leoncio Evasco, chief of staff at the Davao mayor's office, said the llama's stomach became bloated just before it died and veterinarians who autopsied its remains found quantities of plastic materials in its intestines. The plastic materials might have been wrappers of food which children gave the llama, officials said. The circus has been stranded in Davao for four months after dispute over money with its Filipino promoter. The penniless troupe survived at first on donations from Davao residents and later by setting up a mini-zoo. They occasionally held fair circus performances. Earlier this year, two of its donkeys and three ponies were electrocuted when a live wire fell on their cage in Iligan, another southern Philippine city. The circus had 37 performers when it arrived in the Philippines in July last year for a series of shows. Some have returned to Russia while nine are stranded in Cagayan De Oro City. Ms. Avramova and 14 others are stuck in Davao, along with three bears, an elephant, a kangaroo, three monkeys, a puma, two camels, a pony, two St. Bernard dogs and a snake. They are seeking the help of the Russian embassy to get back home.

Actor to enter drug treatment programme

LOS ANGELES (R) — A judge Monday allowed actor Gary Bussey to enter a two-year drug treatment programme rather than face felony drug possession charges stemming from his apparent cocaine overdose in May. A spokeswoman for the Malibu Municipal Court said Judge Lawrence Mirra approved by the probation department. If the 50-year-old actor successfully completes the programme after 24 months, drug-related charges against him will be dropped. Bussey, who was nominated for an Academy Award for playing the title role in The Buddy Holly Story about the rock legend, was charged with a number of drug-related offences after being hospitalised in May for an apparent overdose. Paramedics treating him found about one and a half grams of cocaine in his shirt pocket, and sheriff's deputies found another half-gram of cocaine and four grams of marijuana as well as some of the hallucinogenic PCP in his home. Bussey, who came close to death in a 1988 motorcycle accident, has also starred in Angels Hard As They Come, Thunderbolt And Lightning, Gornall Rally, A Star Is Born, and The Firm.

Singapore bans Janet Jackson disc cover

SINGAPORE (R) — If pop singer Janet Jackson wants to sell her "Janet" laser disc in Singapore, she'll have to cover her upper body with more than a pair of male hands. The Singapore Board of Film Censors has okayed the contents of the disc but not the cover, a spokeswoman at the Ministry of Information and the Arts said. "If the distributor wants to distribute the LD in Singapore, he will have to replace the cover with one that is acceptable," the spokeswoman said in a written statement. The cover shows Jackson almost nude from the waist up, her breasts covered by a pair of male hands. It is taken from a photograph that appeared in the U.S.-based Rolling Stone magazine. The 75-minute laser disc was released internationally last December. Distributor EMI Singapore has no plans to appeal the ban or revise the cover, a spokeswoman told Reuters. He said local sales of the laser disc, expected to be low, would not justify asking the U.S. manufacturer to produce a new cover. But EMI has already revised the videotape version of "Janet," cropping the cover photo to make Jackson visible only from the neck up, for local release, he said.

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Soldiers carry a person wounded in the explosion at the naval armoury near Rio de Janeiro. At least 23 people, mostly military personnel, were hurt when a series of

explosions rocked Brazil's largest naval armoury (AFP photo)

23 injured in Rio navy arms depot blast

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — In a scene one witness likened to a "war movie," explosions tore through the Brazilian Navy's primary arms depot on an island 200 metres offshore.

Despite early reports of casualties, the navy said no one was killed or missing in the explosions. Twenty-three military personnel were hospitalised for minor injuries,

the navy spokesman, Capt. Eurico Wellington Liberatti, said.

TV Globo, quoting the Navy Ministry, said as many as 40 people were on the island. Initial reports citing unidentified navy officials

bad put that figure at 100. Thirty-seven homes on Boqueirão Island, the site of the explosions Sunday evening, also were destroyed, TV Glo-

bo said. "The wounded were bawling each other and crying," said state Congressman Jose Morais, commodore of the nearby Guanahara Yacht Club. "It looked like a war movie here."

The detonations began about 5:30 p.m. and lasted 90 minutes, creating a large cloud. They were felt up to 10

Gunmen attack police station in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Up to 1,000 gunmen opened fire on a police station in Pakistan's port city of Karachi overnight and fled after police fired back from the building's rooftop, police said Tuesday.

The gunmen attacked the Mominabad Police Station firing hundreds of rounds, but there were no casualties, a police spokesman said. "Some 800 to 1,000 people attacked and fired gunshots by the Mominabad Police Station at midnight," a police spokesman said. "The attack was planned for 20 minutes."

The gunmen retreated after police used light machine

guns to repulse the attack, the spokesman said. The cause of the attack was not given and the gunmen were not identified.

Seven people, including two police officials, were killed in separate incidents in the violence-plagued city overnight, police said.

Unidentified gunmen kidnapped retired police official Raja Mohammad Ishaq from a bus and tortured him to death, they said. His body was found in a car in the volatile Gulbaha area, police said. An Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdul Razak, 45, was shot dead in Gulbaha. He was kidnapped, blindfolded and his hands and feet were tied

before he was shot, a police official said. His body was wrapped in a sack and dumped.

"Anyone who confronts us will meet the same fate," said an unidentified band-written note found in the sack.

The latest killings raised the death toll to 175 this month and more than 1,100 this year, compared to some 800 in 1994.

As violence continued in the port city of 12 million people, the government and the opposition MQM threatened to demand a separate province for Karachi if the talks fail. It wants greater rights for the Urdu-speaking Mohajirs, who migrated from India at partition in 1947.

The government has issued 21 conditions in reply to 18 presented by the opposition MQM.

The MQM has threatened to demand a separate province for Karachi if the talks fail. It wants greater rights for the Urdu-speaking Mohajirs, who migrated from India at partition in 1947.

The government says the MQM must renounce violence before its complaints about discrimination against Mohajirs in politics, jobs and education can be tackled.

N. Zealand parliament attacks nuclear tests

WELLINGTON (AFP) — New Zealand politicians Tuesday sharply attacked the French government's decision to resume nuclear testing at Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger, speaking during a special two-hour debate, said a resolution clearly stating New Zealand's opposition to the resumption of tests would be drafted by the end of the week for parliamentary approval.

"The international debate on this issue is about getting world leaders to speak out against resumed testing," he said.

Mr. Bolger said it was "inevitable" the testing would be debated during the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference to be held in Auckland in November.

"The 40-odd leaders there will, I have little doubt, want to express their opposition to nuclear testing anywhere," he said.

Foreign Minister Don McKinnon accused the French government of being

oblivious to world opinion.

"There is no significant support for what France is doing," he said. "The pride of France may be on the line, but there is still time to reverse the decision."

The leader of the opposition Labour Party, Helen Clark, said the government should be doing more than it was to increase pressure on France.

"We should not be too cautious. France won't be persuaded by diplomatic niceties. To succeed, we may have to be offensive," she said.

The debate did not reach any conclusions on what to do. Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Bolger met the leaders of five opposition parties to discuss ways of stepping up the protest.

After the meeting, Attorney-General Paul East said he hoped that by the end of this week the government would be able to say whether it was feasible to mount a legal challenge in the World Court on the resumption of nuclear tests.

Meanwhile, protesters for the official Rescue Coordination Centre in Wellington, was quoted by the New Zealand Press Association as saying it was essential the vessels had life rafts, flares, other safety equipment and reliable radios.

He said sailors who had not been beyond local harbours could get "a big shock" if they found themselves facing 40 knot winds and five metre waves in the open sea.

The New Zealand Press Association reported Tuesday that protest fleet organisers said they had 25 boats committed to sailing in the fleet and there were 49 confirmed from Australia.

In Tokyo, Japanese leaders, known as some of the world's most cautious diplomats, have begun talking tough about France's insistence on resuming nuclear testing in the Pacific.

In the latest sign of growing Japanese anger at the French action, leaders of the three parties in Prime Minis-

ter Tomiichi Murayama's coalition met Tuesday to consider passing a parliamentary resolution condemning the tests.

When President Chirac announced in June the resumption of nuclear tests, Japan issued a standard protest calling on France to abandon the tests.

The Japanese left the biggest protests to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island nations, where thousands of demonstrators took to the streets calling for a boycott of French products, and a French consulate was firebombed.

But with upper House elections looming this weekend, senior ministers have begun playing the "nuclear card," one of the most emotive issues possible in the only country in the world to suffer atomic bombing.

Out of the campaign trail, where he is free from the restriction of speaking as finance minister, Masayoshi Takemura Monday called for protests against France.

Bangladesh flood survivors prepare for worse

KAMRANGIRCHAR, Bangladesh (Agencies) — Bangladeshis hit by the country's worst flooding in seven years said Tuesday the aftermath of the deluge would be traumatic with widespread hunger and disease.

"So far we have had only to skip one meal a day," said Sultan Ahmad in Kamrangirchar, a sprawling suburb of Dhaka.

"But we must brace for the worse once the water recedes and sufferings increase because of hunger and disease," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ahmad, a boatman, has trouble feeding his seven-person family still stranded in their house with water up to its windows.

But he said they were still better off than the thousands "buddled like animals" in shelters where they share common toilets and fight over meagre supplies of drinking water.

Despite promises by the government and private agencies, relief supplies have not reached most survivors.

"I have decided to stay put as long as my roof is dry," said Masuma Begum, one of three sisters camping on their rooftop.

"Life goes by... but we are worried for what would happen after the floods," she said.

Almost all of the 200,000 Kamrangirchar residents have been affected by the floods and one-quarter of them have lost their homes.

They also worried because state radio broadcast a warning Monday that Bangladesh could be hit by a third wave of floods in August.

Health officials said nearly 250 medical teams were working in flooded districts trying to avert an epidemic of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases.

Harun Al Rashid, minister of disaster management and relief, said Monday the current flooding had hit 35 of the country's 64 administrative districts.

More than 12 million people have been affected while crops on 1.7 million acres

(680,000 hectares) were damaged, he told reporters. The floods killed more than 160 people, officials and news reports said Tuesday.

The weather office warned of more floods as rains continued to drench the nation and the government rushed thousands of doctors and paramedics with medicines to prevent outbreaks of cholera, dysentery, and malaria that could kill several thousands of malnourished people in days.

The floods this year appear to be the worst since 1988, when 1,400 people were killed. Most of the deaths this month have been caused by drowning and waterborne diseases. Last month, flash floods killed at least 90 people and left thousands of people homeless in the north.

The first places where the government sent doctors to were the northern provinces where waters were receding, leaving behind a thick film of filth and slime across the terrain and polluting ground water wells in villages and drinking water pipelines in

cities and towns.

More than 2,000 medical teams, that included 1,200 doctors, have already been sent, said Shahinur Rahman at Dhaka's Flood Control Centre. Seven deaths were reported from relief centres in the flooded areas.

Floods are an annual disaster for Bangladesh, one-third of which is covered by rivers, lakes and a part of the world's largest delta system even in the dry season. During monsoons, most of these rivers and canals overflow and the huge Himalayan rivers surge down through the country with excess water from rains and melting snows as far north as Nepal or Tibet.

For weeks before the rains, poor Bangladeshis prepare for the floods. Cattle are taken and tied to posts on raised hillocks, chickens are placed in coops on roofs of houses and boats loaded with food and kerosene stoves are kept ready. The government renovates permanent flood shelters across the nation.

Jaffna residents call for end to Sri Lanka army offensive

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil residents in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula have asked the government to halt a military offensive and resume talks with separatist Tamil guerrillas, travellers from the region said.

The Jaffna Citizen's Committee wrote President Chandrika Kumaratunga to open negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and end fighting, residents who crossed rebel lines told reporters at the northern Vavuniya town.

They said the Vice Chancellor of the Jaffna University, K. Gunaratnam and two others signed the appeal calling for a stop to the army's biggest-ever ground offensive begun nine days ago.

The military has lost 69 soldiers killed and another 205 wounded since Operation Leap Forward was launched on July 9. The LTTE has admitted losing 97 rebels in the military campaign.

Military officials here said the Jaffna citizens' appeal would not have been without the consent of the LTTE which has iron-grip control over all organisations in Jaffna where they maintain their de facto state.

The latest bout of fighting started on April 19 when the LTTE called off six months of talks and resumed its protracted campaign for an independent homeland called Eelam in the island's north-east.

The Jaffna Citizen's appeal did not give details of casualties among LTTE cadres but said 300 civilians were killed and another 500 wounded while 300,000 men, women and children were made homeless.

Security forces have come within six kilometres of the town of Jaffna, the symbol of Tamil separatism, after the Leap Forward offensive and the Tigers have warned it would be a disaster for the army if they came any closer.

The LTTE, in a statement issued at its London office Tuesday, said they had pushed back the army from a 78-square kilometre area they captured from the rebels.

However, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe denied the rebel claims and said they were in total control of the entire territory taken from the Tamil Tigers in the past nine days.

Meanwhile, press reports here said that at least 30 civilians and rebels were killed when an LTTE truck loaded with arms and explosives accidentally exploded near Jaffna over the weekend.

Tamil rebels Tuesday denied the reports of the explosion in Jaffna, Tamil sources said.

The clandestine radio of the LTTE denied there had been an explosion but said three militants were killed in a blast, according to Tamil sources monitoring the radio station.

The state-run Lankapuvath News Agency claimed 137 people were killed when an

LTTE truck loaded with explosives accidentally blew up, but Brig. Munasinghe said he was not aware of the casualties.

Tamils travelling from the northern Jaffna peninsula confirmed the explosion had occurred, but could not give casualty figures.

Voice of Tigers radio said the three LTTE fighters were killed in an explosion in eastern Batticaloa district. It did not say when the blast occurred.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Tuesday "many people" were killed in the July 10 explosion in Jaffna.

The ICRC's confirmation of the blast followed unconfirmed reports over the past few days.

The ICRC head of delegation Marco Altherr said there was a "huge explosion" probably involving one munitions truck in Jaffna town.

"Seventeen people were wounded and we know many people died, but we have no figures," Mr. Altherr told Reuters.

He said the dead were LTTE cadres.

Government-run television said in an unconfirmed report that the truck blew up Monday at Kokuvil, north of Jaffna town.

The Daily News newspaper Tuesday said one truck was about to take off on a possible suicide mission from a Tiger arms factory when the explosion took place.

"The force of the detonation was magnified by

another blast at the arms factory. The dead included women and children," it said, quoting "reports."

Meanwhile a Tamil female journalist was freed from police detention Tuesday after being held for 24 hours for making a false declaration at a de facto frontier post in northern Sri Lanka.

Pearl Thevanayagam, a reporter on the Colombo Sunday Leader weekly, was arrested Monday as she returned from an area under the control of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), police said.

"We could not find hard evidence to support the allegations about her links with the LTTE, so we decided to release her," said Nimal Leucke, police chief in the northern Vavuniya region.

Ms. Thevanayagam had described herself as a teacher and declared she was visiting her sister in a LTTE-held area. She was unable, however, to give the address of her sister, police said.

The Defence Ministry had last week turned down a request by Ms. Thevanayagam to visit the embattled northern region where security forces are currently leading a major ground offensive against the LTTE.

The editor of the Sunday Leader, Lasantha Wickramatunga, said he was aware of Ms. Thevanayagam's visit to the embattled north where she had relatives and he had asked her to write feature articles on her return.

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China to test guided missile in late July

BEIJING (R) — China's People's Liberation Army is to conduct surface-to-surface guided missile training launches in the East China Sea this month, the Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday.

The army called on all ships and aircraft to keep out of the sea area and air space from July 21 to 28, Xinhua said.

The training area will be in a radius of 10 nautical miles of a central point at 26 degrees 22 minutes north and

122 degrees 10 minutes east, it said.

Chinese naval vessels and airplanes will be operating in the area, it said.

"For the safety of passing vessels and aircraft, the Chinese government requests

the governments of relevant countries and the authorities of relevant regions to advise the vessels and aircraft of their countries and regions against entering the said sea area and air space during this period," Xinhua said.

Released Kashmiri militants want hostages freed

JAMMU, India (AFP) — Four Kashmiri Muslim militants who were freed Tuesday after a six-year jail term called for the unconditional release of five Western tourists held hostage in Kashmir by a rebel group.

The activists, from the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), told reporters here that abductions were a blot on Islam.

"Islam does not permit innocent people being taken hostage," the JKLF's former acting chief Mobammad Rafiq said. "If the rebels (holding them) are true lovers of Kashmiris, they should free the foreigners without harming them."

"If they are not set free immediately, it would harm the freedom struggle (in the state) at the international level," said Mr. Rafiq, who along with other three had been charged with secessionist violence.

A rebel group calling itself Al Faran seized two American and two British trekkers in the Pahalgam area of Kashmir on July 4. A German and a Norwegian were then abducted four days later after one of the Americans escaped.

Al Faran is demanding the release of 21 imprisoned militants. It has threatened to kill the five tourists if the demand is not met.

Other Kashmiri Muslim militant groups have condemned the kidnapping.

Mr. Rafiq also blasted Indian troops for human rights violations in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, and said jailed Muslim militants were frequently subjected to torture.

"Jailed activists of different rebel groups are given inhumane treatment in prison cells and interrogation centres," Mr. Rafiq said. "Many young boys have been killed in police custody."

Al Faran had set Monday evening as the deadline for the Indian authorities to release 21 top Muslim guerrillas from prison.

After the Indian government failed to comply with the demand, Al Faran, in a statement issued to news agencies in this Kashmir summer capital, warned that the hostages were in danger of being killed "at any time."

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Suu Kyi to join Burma's Martyrs Day ceremony

RANGOON (Agencies) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will make her first official public appearance since being released from six years of house arrest when she joins government Martyrs Day ceremonies Wednesday.

Ms. Suu Kyi has said she will lay a wreath in honour of her father, independence hero General Aung San, in the official ceremony.

Martyrs' Day is when Burma commemorates the assassinations of Aung San and eight others, killed on July 19, 1947, as they prepared for Burma's independence from Britain.

Aung San, the father of Burmese independence, was chairing a cabinet meeting that morning when men dressed in uniforms and carrying guns burst into the room and opened fire.

They killed the 32-year-old Aung San and six of his ministers, plus a secretary and bodyguard.

Police later arrested a politician who had been Aung San's main rival for the prime ministership of independent Burma and charged him with murder.

Traditionally, the family members of the martyred politicians commemorate the day by laying wreaths at a mausoleum near the Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon.

Ms. Suu Kyi's participation in the ceremony will be her first appearance at a major public event since being released from six years of house arrest on July 10.

Although she has spoken to supporters at her gate and held several news conferences, Ms. Suu Kyi has only

ventured out of her lakeside home a few times, leaving in cars with tinted windows to avoid detection by crowds waiting outside her front gate.

Diplomats say she had not come out sooner in part over concern about a possible boisterous reaction by her supporters.

But they said she had to attend the Martyrs Day ceremonies after being invited by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

"I think she has to attend," one Asian diplomat said. "If not, it would reflect badly on her, especially to the people. It's her father they are commemorating and the government has invited her."

Ms. Suu Kyi has said she wants and needs to maintain a dialogue with the military government in Rangoon in order to achieve democracy in Burma.

The SLORC has still made no official announcement of the 50-year-old Nobel peace laureate's release in the state-run media, and the Martyrs Day ceremony will be the first time Ms. Suu Kyi and military leaders are seen together since her release.

The ceremony is expected to be quiet. Diplomats predicted there would be little time for the public to get involved or get emotional.

The events of Martyrs' Day six years ago may have been the impetus behind Ms. Suu Kyi's arrest on July 20, 1989, after she and the party she co-founded, the National League for Democracy, announced their own plans for commemorating the day.

Military authorities responded by filling the streets with troops quickly and Ms. Suu Kyi, who had made critical attacks on the military in the days before, called off the march because she feared more bloodshed.

She was placed under house arrest the following day.

Ms. Suu Kyi kept up meetings with National League for Democracy (NLD) officials Tuesday in a bid to rebuild and unify the leading organisation of Burma's pro-democracy movement.

Ms. Suu Kyi was stressing NLD unity in talks with the officials, from whom she was asking for — and receiving — pledges of total support as she tried to rebuild the organisation, the dissident's aides said.

The NLD, founded in 1988, is an umbrella organisation of many opposition groups representing a broad range of opinion. It has been largely ineffectual recently, with several top leaders still in jail and others in hiding.

Some 30 NLD members from Saging Division in northwestern Burma near the border with India were admitted to her lakeside home in the morning. One observer said they were NLD organisers and members of the region's executive committee.

Ms. Suu Kyi has been meeting daily with top NLD officials since her release from nearly six years of house arrest on July 10.

Aye Win, a cousin who has been functioning as Ms. Suu Kyi's press liaison, told reporters that she would later see other NLD groups as well

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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

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Vital resources

PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI negotiators still have another target date to meet in their talks on the second stage of their peace process. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres recently admitted that only 60 per cent of the work that needs to be done before the July 25 deadline had been completed. The Palestinian side is less optimistic conceding that agreement on security, elections and water sharing have yet to be reached.

It seems that of all the pending issues, the water problem could prove to be the most difficult to resolve. It is well-known that Israel has become accustomed to the use of water from the aquifers situated in the West Bank to satisfy Israel's water needs and may not be ready to give up this vital source of water. Under international law, the water resources in the Palestinian territories belong to the Palestinian people. But under Israeli practices, past and present, Palestinian waters have been tapped for exclusive Israeli use. As a matter of fact the Israelis had been drawing water from Arab lands without the Arabs' knowledge over the decades that preceded the 1967 occupation of the West Bank.

The water crisis in the Middle East can break or make the kind of regional peace that we are all searching for. Most probably Israel would be ready to make concessions on every subject concerning the Palestinians except on water. That's why we continue to be concerned not only about the fate of the July 25 deadline but also about the future of the entire Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THROUGH HIS ongoing campaign to rally the world community to deal promptly with the Bosnian question, His Majesty King Hussein is aiming at safeguarding the United Nations credibility on the one hand and rescuing the embattled Bosnian nation on the other, said Al Rai daily Tuesday. Moved by the atrocities committed by the Serbian forces against the defenceless population, King Hussein is trying to urge the world community to shoulder its responsibility and save the victims of the savage war, said the paper. The situation in Bosnia has deteriorated to such a degree that no further delay for saving the civilian population can be tolerated through whatever possible means, said the daily. Noting that the United Nations was fast losing its credibility because of its failure to provide protection to the civilians even in the so-called safe havens, the paper said that unless prompt action is taken, the so-called new world order will soon vanish to be replaced by total chaos on a world-wide scale, leaving the globe at the mercy of savages and aggressors who are not hampered by any law or restricted by any rules. The paper said King Hussein's bid to help the Bosnian population deserves full backing from the Arab and Muslim nations as well as the world community at large.

COMMENTING ON the success of a visit to Saudi Arabia by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, a writer in Al Dastour said that the visit has opened the way for Jordanian agricultural products to be exported to Saudi markets. Dairy products and vegetables will soon be on their way to Saudi markets provided they carry a certificate declaring that they are free of any contamination, added Mohammad Subeiti. However, the writer said, the Saudis have the right to demand such certificate because they must have read reports in the Jordanian press that certain crops are treated with hormones and others contain chemicals harmful to man's health. Saying that he had received a letter from a Jordan Valley farmer complaining that such report had actually appeared in the press, the writer said that journalists should be careful about what they write since such reports tend to harm national interests.



M. KAHIL

Why U.S. politicians ignore Arab interests

By Ghassan Bishara

IN LATE May, in his rush to please the Israeli government and its allies in the United States, U.S. President Bill Clinton, with great eagerness, instructed his ambassador at the United Nations to veto a resolution critical of Yitzhak Rabin's decision to confiscate 140 acres of land from the Arab owners in East Jerusalem. Mr. Rabin's reversal of the same decision a few days later ought to send a strong message to U.S. officials that using Jerusalem in any way to promote their political ambitions could become both embarrassing and costly diplomatically. Republican leaders Dole and Gingrich, therefore, should learn from this incident, and should weigh carefully their pandering to pro-Israeli forces at the expense of Jerusalem.

It is probably easy to understand why American politicians feel so careless and daring in their treatment of issues that concern the Arabs. The last time U.S. and Western leaders paid any serious attention to the Arabs was more than 20 years ago, during the height of the Nasser era. Since then, matters in the Arab World have gone from bad to worse, and sadly enough, have not touched bottom yet. The normally pathetic political conditions in the Arab arena have become more so after the Gulf war, and the usually disunited Arab leaders and fragmented Arab World have altogether come unglued in its aftermath. Whatever semblance there was for Arab brotherhood and affinity has all but disappeared, leaving the region weaker than ever in its contemporary history.

The weakness of the Arab-American organisations

This picture of the Arab Middle East, in fact, can best be discerned when viewed against the general

health, cohesiveness, financial competence and effectiveness of the Arab American organisations operating here in Washington. Never really known for their superior performance at any time since they were established, these organisations have become a pale shadow even of their own recent past. A recent national convention of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, the largest such organisation, managed to draw one or two members of Congress throughout its four-day meeting, while the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) by the presence of more than 150 members from both Houses, including Dole himself, in addition, that is, to President Clinton.

Since the health and stature of these Arab-American organisations is a fair reflection of the Arab governments in the Middle East, it becomes easy to understand why American politicians of all colours and political persuasions do not take into consideration either Arab interests or potential reactions. The U.S. embassy affair is a case in point. Every four years, various office seekers in the U.S., in pursuit of money and votes, place their goods on the streets of American cities and begin to peddle them to the highest bidder. The perception among those politicians that U.S. Jews are wealthy and committed to Israel makes them a prime target of the politicians' flattery and sales rhetoric. It often happens that the commodity exhibited for sale to this community is Jerusalem. All previous governments of Israel have sought to have the U.S. recognise Jerusalem as the capital city. Because of the religious, historical and political significance of Jerusalem, and due to the acknowledged complexity of its legal status — not the potential Arab reaction — the U.S.

government has been unable to comply with Israeli wishes.

During AIPAC's annual policy conference, Bob Dole, the Senate Republican leader and his party's front-runner for next year's presidential election, surprised his audience when he spelt out his plans for Jerusalem. He said that he would propose a bill on the Senate floor to transfer the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. It would require the U.S. government to start constructing the embassy in Jerusalem not later than the end of 1996, to be completed by the end of 1999. Otherwise, Mr. Dole said, his bill would deny the State Department half of the money allotted to foreign projects. Mr. Dole assured them that his counterpart in Congress, Newt Gingrich, would introduce the same bill there.

What makes Mr. Dole's pandering to Israel's allies particularly amusing and fascinating is not that he is out expected to do so because of who he is, but because those who have followed his interests in the Middle East conflict still remember his past stands and statements on the subject. In 1990, after a trip to the Middle East which included a meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Mr. Dole had to defend himself against criticism in Washington with regard to statements attributed to him while still in the Middle East. On one of his stops in the region, Mr. Dole was quoted as describing Israel as a "spoiled child"; he was also reported to have suggested that Israel's aid from the U.S. should be reduced by five per cent. Such talk obviously did not please the Israeli lobby, who nevertheless refrained from criticising him as vigorously as they would any other official, precisely because of his position in the Senate.

Not only that, but Mr. Dole at the time went on to criticise Israeli policy with regard to Jerusalem. He accused Israel of having

established full control over Jerusalem "by force." And while he had already signed a non-binding Senate statement proclaiming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, at the time he promised to recant it and in a speech on the Senate floor stated that he would not be trying to decide the future of Jerusalem on his own. Following his visit to Baghdad, Mr. Dole also advised President Bush that he found the Iraqi president "a leader to whom the United States could talk."

All of that was before Senator Dole decided to have another run at the White House, his last since he is now 71. Mr. Dole's pandering to the organising Jewish community will not win him many Jewish votes or much Jewish money, basically because they do not trust him, but it will further cheapen U.S. politicians in the eyes of the voter. Many American presidents and Congresses have been elected into office by a majority of a minority, since less than 50 per cent of the electorate chose to exercise their most basic democratic right.

A one-way street for Israel

From a purely American perspective, nothing really has changed; U.S. politics is such that it is quite normal for politicians to pander to the voters. What is particularly disturbing when it comes to Middle East issues is that this behaviour has been a one-way street in favour of Israel, and the Arabs have never had a look-in.

Mr. Dole's pandering to Israel's lobby has been far from amusing. Political commentators here have expressed more amazement about those who are questioning Mr. Dole's behaviour than about the phenomenon on itself. Some have commented that pandering is so much a part of politics that it is not worth stressing the obvious.

Lobbying is one of Washington's most thriving industries. It is in short the right of all Americans to petition their representatives, and the winners are usually those communities who have the skill, motivation and money to succeed. While the Arabs have the most important ingredient of money — they obviously lack the other two. That grants the Israel lobby a free hand and an open field to do as it wishes. Its expertise in this art, in fact, goes as far back as the late 1940s, when President Truman was seeking election and needed money to undertake an important campaign project. A Jewish friend of his advanced the money and, when elected, Truman paid back in political currency by supporting the partitioning of Palestine. The pattern has continued, with added refinement here and there, throughout all American elections; now it is Mr. Dole's turn to put it to work for him.

When debated in Congress, Mr. Dole's bill is likely to sail through, especially since 92 other senators have already signed a non-binding resolution to that effect. And in spite of the Clinton Administration's half-hearted opposition to the bill at this point, many observers believe that, once it is at his desk, Mr. Clinton will not hesitate to sign it. The same observers believe that regardless of the prospects of the bill, Mr. Dole will gain little, if any, of the Jewish vote or money. Given the choices available, American Jews will certainly vote for Mr. Clinton, the best and the most generous president ever as far as Israel is concerned. And while the stakes involved in this project, meaning the future of Jerusalem, are extremely high, unfortunately the Arab leaders in both the U.S. and in the Middle East will, once again, fail to rise to the occasion.

Middle East International

It Occured to Me

By Ali Kassay

I'm on the highway, get out of my way!

The draft law imposing harsher penalties for traffic violations was rejected by the parliamentary committee studying it on the grounds that it was designed to raise revenue rather than make the roads safer. This raises a number of interesting questions:

First, by what right did the Traffic Department start implementing a law before it had been ratified? Moreover, should the draft be totally rejected, would the citizens who have been fined at the steeper rates be entitled to compensation?

Second, there appears to be unanimity that action is long overdue. So why was nothing done until His Majesty King Hussein ordered it personally? I am second to none in my great esteem for our gracious Sovereign; but what kind of society awaits idly the Monarch's personal intervention to address basic problems like a public brawl or road safety?

Third, is the approach adopted by the Traffic Department likely to provide a satisfactory answer? Harsh punishment, assuming that it is applied universally and consistently, can be an effective deterrent against wrongdoing; but would it be sufficient alone? Traffic offences occur because most of Jordan's motorists and pedestrians suffer from a total lack of road sense or civic awareness, both of which can only be developed by education. In the early sixties the Traffic Department raised the slogan: "Driving is skill, tact, and civility." Thirty years later, all three ingredients remain absent from our roads.

Basic skills like the use of lanes are non-existent notions. Motorists appear to believe that the pretty white lines on the road are intended for them to align the centre of their vehicles while they gaze and root the horn at the girl walking on the pavement. Moreover, many driving schools teach bad driving. For instance, they teach learners not to use the hand brake when taking off on a slope. Consequently, when lights change on a hill, cars may roll back by up to a metre and a half before they move forward eventually.

Concerning last many Jordanian motorists recognise correct behaviour and wave their thanks to one who respects their right of way. Therefore, by simple logic, one would imagine that they might equally recognise incorrect behaviour and avoid it. This is where logic fails. Motorists here seem to believe that acts, reprehensible when committed by others, become correct when perpetrated by themselves. They should be taught that this is not the case.

Civility, finally, is all about group sense. If one were driving alone in the great open spaces, surrounded on all directions by the void, he could stop, take off or turn in any direction just when the whim takes him, and at any speed he chooses. On a congested road he cannot. Nevertheless, our drivers do. Pedestrians also are far from faultless. They clearly believe that their flesh and bones can withstand impact with metallic objects weighing two tons and hurtling towards them at 60 kilometres an hour. To warn them of their car's approach will attract a disdainful glance of defiance, but no motion away from the centre of the road.

Statements like these always attract the stock response: "Things are just as bad if not worse in many other countries." Fine. Say this to a citizen who suffers an injury or a permanent disability on the road. Tell him to derive solace from the knowledge that, were he in Farawayland, he would belong to a bigger group of similarly afflicted people. The objective here is to make the roads in Jordan safe for motorists and pedestrians. To achieve this objective, education is needed.

The weekly half-hour King Police show on TV tries gallantly, but in vain. The message cannot permeate if the time allocated for its diffusion is a clip in a weekly show, whose audience rarely exceeds the families of the brave officers appearing that week.

The message should be hammered in repeatedly, at peak hours, in short, memorable sketches. This needs not be expensive since JTV is not commercial. The matter can be resolved by co-ordination between the departments involved, and an appeal to the civic sense of the nation. Will the citizens take the initiative?

U.S. viewed as likely to keep sanctions on Iraq

By Jack Redden

BAGHDAD — Nearly five years after the United Nations imposed sanctions on Iraq for invading Kuwait, diplomats in Baghdad say the United States is increasingly alone in its uncompromising hostility to President Saddam Hussein.

But few expect Washington to allow an easing of the ban on Iraqi oil exports soon. "It all depends on the United States," said one diplomat. "This year nothing will happen, next year will be the U.S. presidential election, so (President) Clinton can't change his policy. Until 1997, I think it will stay like this."

Sanctions were possible only because of the unique political situation five years ago, with a collapsing Soviet Union willing to follow the U.S. lead.

Most diplomats believe that, especially with differences emerging over these sanctions, it would be hard

to organise such a broad coalition again.

The U.N. resolutions immediately after Iraq's August 1990 invasion were intended to get it out of Kuwait. This was accomplished with arms rather than diplomacy early in 1991.

Later U.N. resolutions focused on ensuring that Iraq could not again threaten its neighbours, especially with nuclear, chemical and biological weapons or ballistic missiles to deliver them.

That has largely been accomplished. The last report by Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. programme to eliminate those weapons, is now trying to verify the end of the biological weapons programme — the last major gap in his mission.

Baghdad admitted in early July, after four years of denials, that it had run a biological weapons programme, but it failed to give Dr. Ekeus documents to prove that it had ended. U.N. experts are back in

Baghdad seeking evidence before Dr. Ekeus can report that his mission has been accomplished.

But even if he finally tells the U.N. Security Council that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been eliminated, most diplomats in Baghdad believe Washington is ready to use its veto to ensure that the sanctions remain.

More information to be gained about Iraq's arms programmes is limited. A vast system of aerial and remote-control monitoring, which was to continue regardless of an end to sanctions, is mainly to ensure the status quo.

"If anything was buried and not found in the first two years, it will not be discovered now," said one foreign source in Baghdad. The United States has tied an easing of sanctions to behaviour well beyond arms requirements, such as producing a good human rights record.

Diplomats cite several reasons for Washington to

take a harder line than others in the Security Council, especially France and Russia, which would like an easing of the oil embargo if Dr. Ekeus says arms requirements have been met.

Only Britain has backed Washington, but its officials privately express increasing unease.

Among U.S. goals, they say, is minimising Iraqi influence while Washington tries to secure Israeli-Arab peace elsewhere and a desire to prevent Iraq from pushing down world oil prices when Saudi Arabia has financial problems and needs high earnings to pay for billions of dollars of U.S. goods.

Few think Washington now wants the early fall of President Saddam, which could force the need for a new policy. Most diplomats see him as solidly in power, with enough legal imports of food and illegal imports of other items to keep the country functioning.

"The U.S. is quite happy to see things stay as they are, otherwise they would shut down trade on Turkish borders," said one diplomat.

Even if the United States wanted to shift position on Iraq, the demonisation of President Saddam that began with the invasion of Kuwait would make it politically difficult at home, especially in an election year.

Most diplomats believe that in the long run the United States will have to resume relations with Iraq, potentially the richest and most powerful Arab state in the region. It is a natural counterweight to Iran, which Washington sees as a threat to Middle East stability.

However, they say the timing of that shift — and the lifting of sanctions — will be determined by U.S. interests outside Iraq. They do not expect it soon.



Weeks after quake, survivors await deliverance by Russian government

By David Germain
The Associated Press

NEFTGORSK, Russia — Since an earthquake leveled this city, there has been no release for survivors who linger in the ruins, pleading for a distant bureaucracy to find them new homes far from this place.

The 7.5 magnitude quake May 28 killed two-thirds of the 3,000 people who lived in Neftgorsk, on the northern tip of Sakhalin Island along Russia's Pacific coast, 6500 kilometres from Moscow.

About 300 people remain, milling about as bulldozers rumble through town cleaning up what little the quake left behind.

The people complain of boredom, of the relentless summer mosquitoes, of outdated juice canned in 1990 that arrived among relief supplies, of humanitarian

aid they claim was shipped from around the world but never arrived here.

Mostly, they complain about a government that has kept them in the dark about when they will be resettled. Many say they want homes on Russia's mainland, away from Sakhalin and the chance of another quake.

"We still live here now and we don't have energy to do anything else," said Valeriy Velikanova, whose daughter, mother and niece died in the quake. "We finally buried everybody, and now we don't have anything to do or anywhere to go. We feel like we've been left behind."

The people of Neftgorsk had a diversion last week when Sakhalin Gov. Igor Farkhutdinov toured the ruined city with Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles, who delivered 9,000 kilograms of medical supplies

gathered by residents of his state.

Mr. Farkhutdinov tried to leave without meeting survivors, but they faced him down at his helicopter and demanded answers.

"We have been waiting for you, and now it seems you are leaving," a woman shouted at Mr. Farkhutdinov as the governor was surrounded by about 100 residents.

"You don't have to complain," Mr. Farkhutdinov snapped. "If you want to talk, let's talk. Don't get angry. If you come to complain, I cannot accept your complaint."

Mr. Farkhutdinov then spent an hour fielding questions and assuring residents the government was doing all it could.

"The ministry of Finance is moving slowly, and it's a long way away," he said, referring to the agency trying to come up with 100

million rubles — about \$22 million — to find housing for quake survivors.

The earthquake collapsed block after block of shoddy high-rise apartment buildings constructed under Soviet rule 30 years ago. Most of the townspeople lived in them, and most died there.

On the ninth day after the quake, officials held a service for the victims, to mark the separation of soul from body, in keeping with Russian Orthodox tradition, said Anatoli Briskin, who oversees police and security forces on Sakhalin Island. On the 40th day, they marked the passage of souls from this earth, he said.

Near what used to be the centre of town is one of the last new things that will ever be built in this quake-prone region, a cemetery where dirt mounds are marked by wooden crosses

and already fading ribbons.

The government has decided to raze the remaining buildings and leave only the graves and a memorial at the site.

Wandering among the dead was Vika Olesik, whose 8-year-old son, Leo, was killed along with her brother and her husband's parents. Ms. Olesik and her husband were out of town when the quake hit, and they had left the boy with his grandparents.

Ms. Olesik does not know if her son, who was nearly 9, and her in-laws were killed by the quake or a fire that broke out in their collapsed apartment building right after.

Days after the quake, her son's charred bones were found in the ruins.

"I wish they would have died in the earthquake because I think it would have been more terrible to burn," Ms. Olesik said.

"Many people burned alive in the rubble."

Close by the graveyard, unused, plank coffins are piled on the muddy ground. A scruffy cat pokes among the rubble of a shop where a broken cash register protrudes from the stones.

Among the debris is a discarded mask worn by a rescue worker to cover the stench of the corpses. In a moment of dark humour during the rescue, someone stuck one of the masks on a statue of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin, whose likeness still stands in a barroom patch of dirt where work crews have cleared away the rubble of collapsed buildings.

A baby stroller and a tricycle lie overturned on a lawn. The dead included about 300 children.

"At our school, all the grades had 30 children before. No grade over would have more than five children," Mr. Velikanova said. "Almost all the children died."

Twelve children orphaned by the quake already have been adopted, and 3,000 people around Russia have offered to adopt 59 others who lost their families. The orphans include 4-month-old Arkady Degtyer, who was pulled from the ruins of the house where his parents died.

Many homes were damaged and uninhabitable, so many of the people still here are living in dachas, small summer homes with gardens, many of them little more than shacks.

Seven-year-old Yuri Voznik, whose father was killed when the family's five-floor apartment house caved in, said he and six others are sharing one of the tiny houses until the government resettles them.

The government hoped to issue certificates for new housing to the remaining survivors by this weekend, but moving them to new locales might take much longer, said Valery Belonov, director of Sakhalin's Transportation Department.

All survivors will have to be out of Neftgorsk by the end of September, when the region's harsh winter sets in and the dachas will provide little shelter, he said.

"After that, Neftgorsk will just go to zero," Mr. Belonov said.

Despite the government's promises, the people of Neftgorsk left their meeting with the Sakhalin governor feeling no better.

"Considering this is Russia, and considering the way the financial situation is, this is probably as good as we can expect," said one survivor, Sergei Vishnevsky.

Sri Lanka under pressure to end war against Tigers

By Rohan Gunasekera
Reuters

COLOMBO — International pressure could force Sri Lanka to suspend an army offensive against Tamil Tiger separatists if the rebels sue for peace, defence officials and analysts say.

Western countries, Australia and Russia expressed concern last week about the loss of civilian life in the offensive, now pushing close to the northern guerrilla stronghold of Jaffna, and urged both sides to return to the negotiating table.

Defence analysts said the military were worried the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels could try to buy time by offering to resume talks and regain international sympathy by alleging large-scale civilian casualties in the offensive.

"If civilian casualties mount the international community will complain," former air force chief Air Marshal Harry Goonetilleke told Reuters. "Go for the terrorists' by all means but protect civilians."

A senior Jaffna churchman said 121 people died when the air force bombed a Catholic church packed with refugees last week, when some 10,000 troops, backed by tanks, artillery and air support launched an offensive against the Tigers.

"Naturally we are concerned about the civilians," a Western diplomat said.

"The bombing of the church was particularly shocking, but as long as it is not repeated and the incident is investigated, it won't be that harmful to the government."

The government says it is investigating the church bombing.

The army advanced to within six km of Jaffna town by week's end, having captured more territory from the rebels who are fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east.

"We prefer that the offensive be stopped and negotiations be resumed to find a political settlement but for that there have to be two cooperative parties," the diplomat added.

The independent Sunday Island newspaper quoted Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte as telling government ministers last week that the army will continue its offensive since it had been pushed into the war.

It said Mr. Ratwatte had replied with a firm "No" when asked if the government would stop the offensive if the Tamil Tigers offers to resume peace talks.

The government has said it will soon unveil its long-awaited "peace package" devolving power to satisfy minority Tamil demands for autonomy to try to end the

12-year ethnic war in which more than 50,000 people have died.

The government's plan seems to be to launch a big offensive against the Tamil Tigers, announce a big victory and then unveil its political solution to end the war, defence analysts said.

"The offensive appears to be part of the government's overall political strategy to set the stage for its political package," analyst Ram Manikalingam said recently. "The government probably feels it requires a show of military strength."

Relief workers and church officials said civilian casualties had been heavy since the army launched "Operation Leap Forward".

More than 3,000 badly wounded people had arrived at the Jaffna hospital for treatment and some 300,000 fled their homes to escape bombing and shelling, they said.

Mr. Goonetilleke said he does not believe the Tigers will resume peace talks but added the government could lose international sympathy as well as the support of the Tamils if civilians are hurt in the fighting.

The Tigers unilaterally broke off a 14-week truce, withdrew from peace talks and resumed hostilities in April. More than 600 people have died since then.

King receives

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli government was taking slow peace strides with the Palestinians until Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat "ensures an end to terrorism" and can guarantee the security of Israelis," the sources added.

Shas is an ultra-religious, non-Zionist Sephardi party established before the elections to the 11th Knesset (1984) in protest over the inappropriate representation of the Sephardi sector in the "Agudat Yisrael" list; it is believed to be a power broker in Israeli policy.

While considering to enter the battle of the coming presidential elections in Israel in 1996, Shas has not yet decided who it will ally itself with in order to kick the balance out of either the Likud or Labour parties, the main rivals over leadership to the Jewish state, Israeli diplomats said.

The Israeli delegation, which arrived here Tuesday by plane from Israel, will leave Jordan tomorrow following a trip to the ancient city of Petra.

Sharif Zeid

(Continued from page 1)

Sudan, noting that the Jordanian government was in touch with the two governments to defuse the dispute, according to Dr. Ensour.

In reply to a question about Jordanian relations with Gulf states, Dr. Ensour said that these relations were progressing and improving gradually, noting that relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are expected to improve "especially as Jordan strives to maintain the strongest possible ties with all Arab states and highly values the UAE's assistance to the Kingdom."

As to Kuwait, Dr. Ensour said that Jordanians harbour brotherly feelings towards its people and hope that the two countries will transcend the events of the past and work for a better future.

Referring to Iraq, Dr. Ensour said that the committee is deeply concerned over Iraqi people's conditions and calls for an end to their suffering.

29,000 refugees have left Srebrenica which was believed to have had a population of some 42,000.

Among 88 patients evacuated by the Red Cross from the Serb-held town of Bratunac, near Srebrenica, overnight were some children and one woman seriously ill with gangrene, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Meanwhile, a senior French source said that the French government believes Bosnia and Croatia are deliberately obstructing the deployment of a multinational rapid reaction force intended to project U.N. peacekeepers.

"The foreign legionnaires preparing for a possible rescue of Bosnian Muslims under Serb threat have had to sleep on the ground for several weeks now because Bosnian and Croatian authorities are preventing delivery of

NEWS IN BRIEF

Foreign minister briefs Cabinet on Saudi visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti on Tuesday briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his visit this week to Saudi Arabia and meetings with senior Saudi officials. The Cabinet, holding a regular session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, voiced hope that Jordanian-Saudi relations will be back to normal soon. After the briefing by Mr. Kabarti, the Council of Ministers took several decisions which included its approval of an updated investments law. The draft law will be referred along with other customs-related laws related to the Kingdom's economic reform programme to Parliament for endorsement. The draft law aims to attract investors to the Kingdom through several measures, which include giving them tax exemptions in the less developed areas of the Kingdom. The draft law divided the Kingdom into three development regions to achieve that end. The Council of Ministers also decided to appoint Musa Al Jaghbeer as an advisor at the Prime Ministry.

Pollard's wife applies for Israeli citizenship

TEL AVIV (AP) — The wife of Jonathan Pollard, the U.S. naval intelligence analyst serving a life sentence for spying for Israel, on Tuesday asked Israel's interior minister to grant her husband citizenship. Esther Pollard, who married Mr. Pollard in 1985, said she had applied for Israeli citizenship to help her husband's case when he comes before a parole board this fall. Mr. Pollard, arrested in 1985, has admitted giving Israel thousands of documents containing information on Arab countries. The case is sensitive in Israel, which relies heavily on U.S. financial and political support. Some Israelis contend the government has done too little to win his release. Interior Minister David Libai said after meeting with Esther Pollard that the government will consider the request and pledged to continue pressing for Jonathan Pollard's release.

Sheikh of Al Azhar warns of a "crusader war" in Bosnia

CAIRO (AFP) — The Sheikh of Al Azhar, Sunni Islam's highest authority, warned on Tuesday of a "war of crusades" in Bosnia if the United Nations does not take a stand against Bosnian Serbs. Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq urged the U.N. General Assembly to meet to "discuss the aggression against Bosnia and to take an international stand to stop the slaughter and history record another war of Crusades." Quoted in the official Egyptian news agency MENA, Sheikh Gad Al Haq said "international agencies" must "take immediate steps to stop the Serbian aggression and remove (their) troops from lands they have occupied."

Arafat due in Paris for birth of his first child

PARIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will visit Paris on July 26 and 27, when his wife Suha is expected to deliver their first child, diplomatic sources said on Tuesday. Suha Arafat has been in Paris, where her mother lives, for several weeks. Mr. Arafat's press adviser, Nabil Abu Rodaheh, told Reuters that Mr. Arafat had been invited last month to make an official visit to France on July 27. He is expected to meet President Jacques Chirac and Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, the sources said.

Rabin appoints two new ministers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reshuffled his cabinet on Tuesday appointing former military chief of staff Ehud Barak as interior minister and Yossi Beilin as economy minister, officials said. Lieutenant General Barak, 53, retired from the army in January after four years in the top job and was immediately tipped for a role in the Labour coalition government. Mr. Rabin, who is defence minister, has a close relationship with Mr. Barak.

OIC to meet

(Continued from page 1)

He held talks Tuesday with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali who made a brief stopover in Cairo on route to Geneva at the end of a six-day tour of Africa.

"This meeting was called following the brutal occupation by Serbian forces of the city of Srebrenica, declared a 'safe zone' by the United Nations, and in the face of Serb offensives against the towns of Zepa and Gorazde."

Arafat, Peres

(Continued from page 1)

Israel Radio reported.

Nabil Shaath, the chief Palestinian negotiator, sent an urgent message to Mr. Arafat asking him to persuade the Israeli government to be more flexible, the Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly instructed Israeli negotiators not to make concessions on water.

Mr. Rabin told the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Monday that "without agree-

ment on the water issue we shall not sign the agreement," committee spokesman Yair Amikam said.

Mr. Rabin said he agreed with Benny Begin, a leader of the opposition Likud Party, that handing over control of the towns in the West Bank could pose a real threat to Israel's water resources.

Mr. Begin accused the Palestinian Authority of "wild and uncontrolled" pumping of water from wells in the Gaza Strip, creating a risk of salinity.

Serbs launch heavy attack

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday that Bosnian government troops in Gorazde have stripped arms and equipment from about 90 Ukrainian U.N. troops, assaulting their commander and leaving the peacekeepers defenceless.

"All the Ukrainian troops were lined up in a corridor and all their weapons and body armour were removed," U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said, adding that the incident happened on Sunday.

"(Government) soldiers... removed all weapons, ammunition, radio equipment, medical kits, personal belongings and all the soldiers' money. Armoured personnel carriers belonging to the Ukrainian peacekeepers

were towed away by truck." Mr. Ivanko said the operation was carried out by about 100 Bosnian soldiers who dragged the Ukrainian company commander over a fence, assaulted him and held a gun to his head.

Government troops disarmed another Ukrainian observation post in Gorazde on Monday evening, Mr. Ivanko reported.

"This behaviour can only be described as outrageous, inexcusable and as of no benefit to the cause of the Bosnian government," the spokesman said.

A White House spokesman said the French proposal to defend Gorazde and its 60,000 people "would involve risk and, most likely, casual-

ties."

The United States, unwilling to fight on the ground, was studying the French appeal for helicopters to airlift troops to Gorazde but this would need congressional approval, which was unlikely.

Government Sarajevo Radio reported two people were seriously wounded in Serb shelling of Gorazde on Tuesday.

Another U.N.-designated "safe area" — Bihać in Western Bosnia — came under attack on Monday with 154 explosions recorded around the Bihać town area, Col. Coward said. A number of SA-2 and SA-6 missiles were used ground-to-ground, causing six casualties.

Bosnian Parliament Speaker Miro Lazovic sent a letter to the U.N. general assembly demanding to know if the U.N. intended to act or not to defend Bosnian Muslims.

"If you do not want to help the people of Zepa by decisive actions, you should say that publicly," he said.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohammed Sacirbey said in Washington his government no longer supported the U.N. presence.

"The U.N. mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina is at an end," he said.

The attacks on Zepa followed a request by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to the U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith to broker talks with Serb forces for the evacuation of civilians from the enclave.

U.N. spokesman said first contacts with a Bosnian Serb Lieutenant-Colonel over the proposal had been "inconclusive."

Up to 4,000 Muslim soldiers fought their way through Serb-held territory to reach safety after the fall of Srebrenica. In all about

their camp beds," an exasperated official said.

"There are numerous similar incidents in which equipment for French or British units is being held up in ports, where huge taxes are being demanded for their unloading."

Impossible conditions are being set, including bans on live-fire exercises and requests for four days of pre-warning for units to be allowed to move around," the aide told Reuters.

The report followed a comment by General Andre Equibour, French RRF commander, to the newspaper Le Figaro that both Croatian and Bosnian Muslim authorities had hampered the movement of his force.

The French Foreign Minister said talks were under way with both Bosnia and Croatia to overcome difficulties but a spokesman would not be drawn on details.

come mostly from the same tradition, which means that we have the same market, the same outlook towards everything. The (Palestinian-Israelis) have some experience, they are a market; we (in Jordan) have the capabilities to cooperate, we have inexpensive labour. Therefore, I believe that we can do a lot with each other," Mr. Zahian said.

During the three-day meeting, more than 150 Palestinian-Israeli businessmen as well as a similar number of Jordanian counterparts are expected to deliberate over ways to re-establish economic links between the two sides. Mr. Shaheen told the Jordan Times that the main

Jordanian, Palestinian-Israeli

(Continued from page 1)

aim of the visit to Jordan is for Palestinian-Israeli businessmen to meet their Jordanian counterparts, a meeting which he sees as the opening of a new road from which many things can develop.

On the subject of remaining obstacles to free trade between the countries, both Mr. Zahian and Mr. Shaheen expressed hope that the governments of Jordan and Israel would make every effort to eliminate them as soon as possible. "The obstacles come from 50 years of not having any relations, so its just moving from hostility to cooperation — it will take time," Mr. Zahian explained.

Jordan's 1995 growth spurred by Mideast peace

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's economy, its private sector activity boosted by Middle East peace, is expected to grow six per cent in 1995, the Central Bank said on Tuesday.

The bank, in its newly released 1995 annual report, forecast gross domestic product (GDP) would rise six per cent as the private sector begins to respond to a better business climate in wake of the October 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

GDP rose 5.7 per cent in 1994, slightly exceeding an International Monetary Fund (IMF) target by 0.02 per cent for that year, with inflation falling to 4.00 per cent from the IMF target of 5.00 per cent for 1994, the report said.

The IMF has set a growth target of 5.00 per cent in 1995.

Jordan's private sector has so far been cautious in reacting to an improved investment climate after the peace treaty, with many firms still adopting a wait-and-see attitude until its full benefits

unfold. The report said the forecast growth was based on investment growth of 27.4 per cent to GDP and a consequent rise of five per cent in national savings.

The budget deficit to GDP ratio was also forecast to drop to 4.1 per cent in 1995 from 5.9 per cent in 1994.

On monetary policy, the bank — having applied a tight fiscal policy to rein in inflation — said it would continue to control expansion of credit and preserve a stable dollar policy.

The bank intended to "continue pursuing a flexible and effective interest rate policy that keeps a suitable margin between interest on dollar assets and dollar assets."

The report said that although exports were expected to rise 15 per cent in 1995, the trade deficit — reaching JD 1.362 billion in 1994 — was forecast to rise with an eight per cent rise in the import bill.

Imports were rising due to two factors, higher capital investments and more consumer goods coming in, especially cars that benefited from IMF-directed tariff cuts in 1994, the report said.

But a higher trade deficit in 1995 was expected to be offset in the balance of payments by a healthy services accounts as a result of raised tourism revenue, it added.

Economists forecast \$600 million in tourism revenue in 1995, with an increased influx of tourism after peace with Israel, along with a forecast 8.8 per cent rise in expatriate worker remittances to \$1.32 billion in 1995.

The current account deficit is expected to fall to five per cent of GDP in 1995, the bank said. It was JD 149.8 million lower than the IMF target for 1994, with a drop to 5.4 per cent of GDP against a forecast 8.9 per cent.

The bank forecast the economy would continue to achieve sustainable growth, with average growth rates above 5.8 per cent.

Income from Egyptian transfers up to \$2.5b

CAIRO (AFP) — Transfers of money from Egyptians working abroad amounted to \$2.5 billion for the first nine months of fiscal year 1994-95, an 8.7 per cent increase over the previous year, officials said Monday.

Prime Minister Atef Sidqi, who announced the figures in the government daily Al-Ahram, said transfers in the same period in 1993-94 had totalled \$2.3 billion.

Sidqi said the government's total foreign currency holdings had increased and that the surplus has been put in central bank reserves.

"Inflation rates, (currently) 8 per cent, will continue to recede over the coming period," Mr. Sidqi said.

Income from Egypt's other larger foreign currency earners, the Suez canal and tourism, totalled \$1.9 billion and \$1.4 billion respectively in fiscal year 1993-94, according to central bank figures. Oil revenue in the same period totalled \$1.5 billion.

Oil prices recover some after hitting 7-month low

LONDON (R) — World oil prices recovered late in the day after earlier hitting a seven-month low on Monday as perceptions of oversupply hit prices in the key North Sea oil market.

World benchmark Brent Blend crude oil for September delivery traded as low as \$15.71 per barrel on Monday, 18 cents below Friday's close and its lowest level since December 16. That price had recovered to \$15.84 by the close of trading.

"Traders have taken a bearish tone since the (North Sea) loading programmes came out and we're seeing the effects on Brent," said Charles Gray, oil market

analyst at Prudential Bache Futures in London. North Sea crude supply is already exceeding requirements this month, and the situation is unlikely to improve in August, dealers said.

Maintenance in some Norwegian oil fields will cut the North Sea's 5-6 million barrels-per-day output by five per cent, but will still leave more than European refineries need. And the U.S. market, which often absorbs much of Europe's excess production, is hardly buying and North Sea oil at the moment, exacerbating Europe's glutted market, Mr. Gray said.

Europe's oversupply was exhibited on Monday when a cargo of Brent loading in 10 days' time changed hands at a 25 cents discount to the September-loading price, indicating that demand for promptly delivered oil is scarce.

When prompt prices fall below those in the future, traders call it a "contango." "The move into contango has really thrown people off their guard. Traders are saying they are bearish," said Mr. Gray.

He added that prices may not have finished falling, and identified \$15.15 per barrel as the next potential target for September Brent Futures.

Iraq's slow approachment with the U.N. added some background pressure on the oil market, dealers said. Iraq was banned from selling oil on world markets after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

On Monday, U.N. biological specialists arrived in Baghdad seeking data on past germ warfare activities after President Saddam Hussein warned the U.N. that Iraq could continue to comply with demands to disclose its arms programme without a lifting of trade sanctions.

On Sunday, Saddam Hussein pardoned two Americans jailed for four months in Iraq after representations from U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson.

Japanese firm to expand Oman cement output

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A Japanese company has won a contract to expand the production of Oman's state cement firm as part of plans by the Gulf state to lessen reliance on imports, officials said on Tuesday.

IHI Heavy Industries Ltd will carry out the project this year to boost production at the Oman Cement Company (OCC) by nearly 50 per cent in a deal worth around 40 million Omani riyals (\$104 million).

"Work will start before the end of this year and the expansion project will be completed in around 27 months," OCC Deputy Chairman Abdul Malik Al Hanai told AFP by telephone from Mus-

cat. "This will largely increase our production and cut imports. Further expansions are possible in future due to a steady construction upswing."

The project, owned partly by the private sector, will boost OCC's output from 1.46 million tonnes per year to 2.19 million tonnes.

Cement demand in Oman is estimated at around 2.3 million tonnes. Nearly 100,000 tonnes are imported annually from neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE) every year and the rest is met by Rasco cement plant.

Mr. Hanai said 22 million riyals (\$57.2 million), of the

project's cost had been subscribed by the private sector while the rest would come from loans from the government and a consortium of local banks.

Oman, a key oil producer outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Coun-

tries, has been involved in privatisation as part of economic reforms to offset the decline in crude public institutions and is planning to set up major electricity, petrochemical and other industrial projects in participation with the private sector.

World Bank lending jumps over 8%

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said on Monday that loan approvals jumped by over eight per cent in 1994/95, paced by big increases in credits to Latin America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

For the year that ended on June 30, the bank said it approved \$22.5 billion in new loans to developing nations, compared to \$20.8 billion in the previous fiscal year.

China was the biggest borrower from the World Bank in 1994/95, to the tune of nearly \$3 billion, followed by

Mexico, India, Russia and Argentina.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn said the numbers only tell part of the story of the full-scale relationship between his organisation and developing nations in the drive to reduce poverty and promote economic growth.

"It is clear, however, that sustained high levels of support will be needed if we are to continue helping the poorest people in the world to get a chance for a better life," Mr. Wolfensohn added in a statement.

The highest increase in lending last fiscal year was to Latin America and the Caribbean — by nearly \$1.3 billion to just over \$6 billion in 1994/95.

Mexico alone accounted for some \$2.4 billion of that, as the World Bank stepped up its assistance to help combat that country's economic crisis. Argentina borrowed \$1.4 billion.

World Bank lending to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union also jumped sharply in the 1994/95 fiscal year, by 20 per cent to \$4.5 billion. Russia

accounted for \$1.7 billion and Ukraine \$646 million.

Fresh loans to the Asia and Pacific regions were little changed in 1994/95, at about \$8.7 billion. But the regions housed two of the three largest borrowers — China and India, with some \$2.1 billion in new credits.

Africa, though, suffered a decline of about half a billion dollars in new loan approvals, to \$2.3 billion. The bank blamed slower-than-anticipated economic reforms in several large African countries for the drop in lending.

Shippers' profits squeezed on Europe-Gulf route

DUBAI (R) — Shipping lines moving cargo from Europe to the Gulf say they are battling to return to the healthy profits they once made, as volumes remain depressed after years of regional recession and competition heats up.

"It directly reflects the slowdown in the economies and the trade growth in the Gulf. The economies here are in recession," the managing director of a large European line said.

"The competition has increased as more and more lines start services to the Gulf," a shipping agent said. "There's excess capacity and demand is down," said another.

The oil boom of the 1970s

and the construction and speeding spree which followed encouraged many lines to start services to the Gulf. Imports to the region rocketed and ship capacity was filled, driving rates up.

But soft oil prices and the slowdown in infrastructure development in the past few years has left lines forcing rates lower to attract business.

"The situation has been deteriorating rapidly since early 1994. If they are breaking even they're lucky," a shipping representative said.

"Now it's not profitable at all," said another. "Even though they agree to charge a certain rate, there is plenty of undercutting," said a shipping agent.

Earlier this month the 15 major lines in the Europe Middle East Rate Agreement said from "end-September they would all lift rates to the four main United Arab Emirates (UAE) ports — the Gulf's redistribution centre — by \$50 a container, and increase rates to other UAE ports by \$150.

The freight rate for a standard 20-foot container (TEU) from Europe to the Gulf is currently between \$1,000 and \$1,600 depending on what part of Europe it is coming from.

In the 1980s the cheap rate was around \$2,500. Industry analysts said the lines had to jointly agree to increase, in an effort to improve their clout.

They said Gulf ports were missing out on a recovery in cargo volumes to Saudi Arabia, the biggest market in the region, where most imports come through the Red Sea port of Jeddah.

They said many lines were losing money on cargo destined for the smaller Gulf ports, particularly those in the northern Gulf.

"It's not worth our while to go to smaller ports. A 4,000 TEU ship is not going to go to Kuwait to drop off only 50 boxes."

"In the past all Gulf ports were covered and the rates to them were the same. But now there are occasions where lines are refusing cargo to some ports in the upper Gulf," one said.

Saudi concern reports surge in profits

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The state-controlled petrochemical Giant Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC) reported Monday that profits for the first half of the year surged 148 per cent to 3.35 billion riyals (\$893 million).

That compared to 1.35 billion riyals (\$360 million) for the first half of 1994.

Deputy Chairman and Managing Director Ibrahim Ibn Salamah said the results reflected continuing improvement in world markets, "together with strong growth in SABIC's global marketing operations."

Sales revenues rose 70 per cent to 10.2 billion riyals (\$2.72 billion) in the first six months of the year, compared with 6 billion riyals (\$1.6 billion) for the corresponding period last year.

Production in 1994 totalled 20.76 million metric tonnes of chemicals, fertilisers, plastics, resins, metals and gas, Mr. Salamah said in a statement.

SABIC is a huge conglomerate of oil-related and petrochemical industries developed by Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter.

SABIC had been playing down its performance reports over the years as it sought to develop export markets.

Referring to ambitious plans on the board, Mr. Salamah mentioned polyester, methanol, hexanol ethyl and ethylene products that he said would maintain continued growth for the conglomerate and boost SABIC's standing at home and abroad.

THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Berbrich

ACROSS

- Unheeding
- Cooking herb
- Lend — (assist)
- Actor
- Auberjonois
- Salver
- Sociable, in England
- Seed cover
- Div's song
- point (to some degree)
- TV sitcom of old
- Observe
- Legal matter
- TV's Susan
- Scarlet
- Nurtured
- Dream part
- Kind of fishing lure
- Famous pen name
- Cloy
- TV sitcom, once
- Frank
- Comfort
- Paid up
- Willie Winkle
- Eagle
- Boy
- Historical period
- Colonist
- Alphabet run
- Hemingway novel (with "The")
- Fuddy-duddies
- Billiards kin
- Ananias
- Fill with joy
- Raison d'
- Unadorned
- Like an aster
- Clairvoyant
- Warhol

DOWN

- Pulls along
- Uncanny
- In damage
- Dropped
- Pull on
- Wall hanging
- Profit
- Nesting hawk
- Regaled
- By chance
- "boy"
- Kind of gas
- Pair
- Good-night girl
- Utopian
- Hangman's gear
- World-weary
- Needle
- Enthralled
- Cigar ending
- Fermented beverage
- G.B. or Arlie
- Window part
- Sarah — Jewett
- Writer Hunter
- Simultaneous
- Showed again
- Planet
- Eliminated
- Deer feature
- Ham it up
- Dote on
- Oriental, e.g.
- Goalie
- MacDonald or Harry
- River to the Baltic
- Falana of song
- June 6, 1944
- Primates
- Memo
- Exile island

Thursday's Puzzle solved:

TALC VALIE CUP
ABEAM SALEM ONE
PENNYRACE NIP
ESTONIAN TRYSTIS
OILY PUGET
SADDLE SERENATA
AVILA FETED BEN
LOSE FLUID ALLY
SIG COAST NEESE
ADJURORS PARSSED
ORATE BUNS
ACCESS PETTIEST
IRK HORSETRADER
MOE ERIAN ANDRE
EPI SEAT SAFE

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study brochures, papers, etc. for new ideas and then talk over your finest ambitions with your loved one.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Analyse financial affairs and investments today to see how to make the most of your present interests towards your progress.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try to make friends of very successful persons who can give you good ideas and support. Think along logical lines.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you tag along with your loved ones you can gain the private wishes which mean a great deal to you. Tonight discuss with your mate how best to make progress.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Contact those friends who can assist you to gain your personal goals and get their cooperation. Enjoy new kinds of sports.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get your finest talents to the attention of hewigs who can help you to commercialise on them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day for expansion so that you have a far greater amount of success in your chosen field later today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Plan how to make your romantic ideas work out ideally today with the one you love. Be careful to making investments.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can gain backing from both your partners and good friends today for some pet project you have in mind.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Impress hewigs with your equality of career activities and you get more support later today towards your progress.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can bring your finest talents to the attention of hewigs today and gain their support and advice for your success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Listening to ideas of your loved one where property is concerned can be the means through which to make it more valuable.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

WAJ signs JD 7.2m deal

The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) concluded a JD 7.2 million deal with a Japanese company which will supply WAJ with various equipment. WAJ Secretary General Qusai Quteishat, who returned to Amman from Japan recently after signing the agreement, said the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) offered WAJ a grant to purchase the equipment. He said WAJ was expected to start receiving the equipment, to be used in the authority's central workshops, at the beginning of December. He noted that Japan is also participating in financing hydraulic studies on the Zarka water network and a study on desalinating underground water (Al Ra'i-Petra).

** Jordan will take part in the international foodstuff fair which will be held in the German city of Cologne in the period Sept. 30-Oct. 5. Jordan is participating for the second time in the fair which is held once every two years. About 6,200 companies representing 102 countries are participating in the fair which is usually visited by about 200,000 people and is considered the most important foodstuff fair in the world (Al Ra'i).

** Several international companies will, within three months, start a project to extend an oil pipeline between Iraq and Jordan. Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah said. Mr. Darwazah said the project will reduce costs shouldered by Jordan in transporting oil from Iraq by trucks, estimated at JD 30 million annually. He noted that Jordan imports 4 million tonnes of oil from Iraq annually (Al Ra'i).

** The Housing Bank recently sold a large part of its shares in the International Holiday Hotels Company, which owns the Amman Philadelphia and Aqaba Holiday hotels, to Nahih Nazzal and Sons Company. The share sold by the Housing Bank totalled JD 10 million. At an earlier stage in their negotiations, the two sides estimated the value of the two hotels at JD 23 million but renegotiated the deal to estimate the value at JD 27.5 million. Sources said the bank sold 70,000 of its 75,000 shares in the company for JD 10 million, JD 8 cash and JD 2 million instalments. The sources said the Housing Bank made a JD 7 million profit from the deal (Al Dustour).

** The Jordanian Consumer Protection Society asked the Ministry of Supply to reconsider coffee prices after the commodity's prices dropped significantly in the international market. In memos sent to the ministry, the society urged the minister to discuss with it any decision to hike any commodity's price beforehand. The society also sent memos to the ministers of information, health and supply, asking that it be represented in a committee set up by the three ministries to monitor television commercials promoting food supplies (Al Ra'i).

Germany says Moroccan red tape deters investors

RABAT (R) — Germany's ambassador to Morocco was quoted on Monday as saying bureaucratic red tape was scaring away potential investors and German tourists were shunning Morocco because of bad service and hustlers.

Hedwig Bartels, in an interview with the newspaper L'Opinion, said he knew of some German businessmen who had pulled out of ventures in Morocco because of "social problems." He refused to elaborate.

Mr. Bartels said that Tunisia had succeeded in attracting more German investment than Morocco by cutting bureaucracy.

"Tunisia, for example, has done much to attract investors by offering more favourable conditions: production costs are lower, the social climate is problem free and the Tunisian system of one single (investment) body has been able to avoid the problems and traps which face potential investors in Morocco," he said.

Mr. Bartels noted that Germany was the second largest buyer of Moroccan fruits, vegetables and flowers.

Asked about the fall in the number of German tourists to the country, Mr. Bartels said this was partly due to misconceptions because of Morocco's proximity to Algeria, which is hating against Islamists.

But he added bad service and harassment were also responsible.

"I have the impression that tourism in Morocco suffers from several faults partly because of bad service in its hotels but more so by the

problem of false guides, particularly in Marrakesh," Mr. Bartels said.

The Moroccan government recently acknowledged that bad service and hustlers were contributing to the slump in the tourism industry. The tourism ministry said it was training a special tourism brigade to protect tourists from hustlers and setting up "green" telephone booths for tourists in distress.

Parliament recently approved a new investment law designed to cut bureaucratic red tape.

EU foreign ministers strike array of trade deals

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The pact with Hanoi, signed by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, crowns a week in which the United States also decided to normalise relations with its former mortal enemy Vietnam.

"The ceremony today signals a reinforcing of relations between the European Union and Vietnam," Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, representing the bloc's presidency, told a news conference.

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Following that, they will discuss work now getting under way to revolutionise the relationship between the EU and the United States, a link that British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind says is crucial to open up markets around the world.

Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan will tell ministers that a special group is being set up, including top officials from the European Commission, EU president Spain and the United States, to deal with the complex and often strained transatlantic relationship.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SINGISANI				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 18/07/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PTC	1040	216550	209.500	207.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	756	3423	4.550	4.530
BANK OF JORDAN	1428	4853	3.400	3.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	2250	2993	1.330	1.330
THE HOUSING BANK	2750	22270	8.120	8.080
JORDAN KUNAIT BANK	906	2561	2.840	2.830
JORDAN GULF BANK	400	476	1.210	1.190
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	8356	31192	3.760	3.730
BUSINESS BANK	250	965	3.850	3.860
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	710	2904	4.150	4.070
BEIT KHALA SAVING&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	280	737	3.700	3.670
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4600	5109	1.120	1.120
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	27610	46937	1.710	1.690
BANKS SECTOR	51321	341404	INDEX NUMBER: 173.85	CHANGE: -0.99%
JORDAN INSURANCE	200	652	3.260	3.260
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	3000	8040	2.650	2.680
INSURANCE SECTOR	3221	8747	INDEX NUMBER: 129.86	CHANGE: +0.14%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	11337	18806	1.680	1.650
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1400	7980	5.700	5.700
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	200	572	2.860	2.860
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1850	4054	2.210	2.190
MACHINERY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	1500	975	0.670	0.650
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBA	1837	18171	9.900	9.800
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	100	220	2.200	2.200
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	7250	23770	3.270	3.280
SERVICES SECTOR	25474	74548	INDEX NUMBER: 129.20	CHANGE: -0.25%
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	25	750	28.940	30.000
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	4650	17130	3.650	3.660
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3317	9884	3.010	2.980
THE ARAB POTASH	100	510	5.100	5.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	948	9757	10.300	10.220
JORDAN TANNING	251	2008	8.000	8.000
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4345	21068	4.830	4.880
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1500	390	2.540	2.600
SPINING & WEAVING	1100	2163	2.020	1.950
RAJIA INDUSTRIES	800	1254	1.570	1.500
ONR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1804	14071	7.800	7.800
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	3700	2775	0.750	0.750
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	550	6265	1.150	1.150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	7350	3602	0.500	0.490
GENERAL INVESTMENT	9118	24291	2.700	2.650
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1200	1658	1.380	1.390
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	15274	17350	1.150	1.170
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	250	555	2.280	2.220
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	200	130	0.640	0.650
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2025	9677	4.820	4.900
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS	250	283	1.150	1.170
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1050	2300	2.190	2.190
KAWTHAR INVESTMENT	550	836	1.560	1.520
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	850	2684	3.190	3.180
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	9400	19882	2.160	2.110
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	11700	21106	1.870	1.780
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	218257	348695	INDEX NUMBER: 127.85	CHANGE: -0.20%
GRAND TOTAL	298273	773393	INDEX NUMBER: 151.24	CHANGE: -0.65%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		85741		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		107820		

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Opp. United Commercial Centre
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The Best Cooking, Best Service, Best Atmosphere in Amman
Deir Ghar - American Embassy Str. near Baytuna Housing Estate
Open from: 12 noon - 3:30 p.m. 6:30 - 11:30 p.m.
Tel: 861638

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King Abdullah Gardens
Tel. 699420 - 816499

OSRAM Germany
SCHWABE Germany
WOFI Germany
LEUCI Italy
ERC Italy
PUK Italy
AND OTHERS
MINWER - Jabbal AL-Husseini
Tel: 613746 - 613622

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U.S., Brazil head to semis

PAYSANDU, Uruguay (Agencies) — The United States, once a laughingstock of international soccer, is now just two wins from becoming South America's champion.

Backed by outstanding goalkeeping from Brad Friedel, the United States beat Mexico 4-1 on penalty kicks Monday night and will play Brazil in the semifinals of the America Cup.

The United States and Mexico played to a 0-0 tie in regulation, then Friedel took over during penalty kicks, saving two of three shots and keeping the Americans alive for the South American title.

The United States, which failed to escape the first round in the 1993 and Mexico were invited to this 12-nation tournament, one of soccer's showcase events.

"A lot of people were talking about last time we were in Copa America and didn't win a game," U.S. midfielder John Harkes said. "For us to come this far as a team together — the full squad, everyone pulling together — it's one of the biggest triumphs over the U.S. squad."

In Thursday night's semifinal at Maldonado, the United States faces a rematch with World Cup champion Brazil. In last summer's World Cup, the United States lost 1-0 to Brazil in the second round.

The Brazilians beat Argentina, the two-time defending champions, in Monday night's other quarterfinal, winning 4-2 on penalty kicks after regulation ended 2-2 in Rivera.

The other America Cup semifinal is Uruguay vs. Colombia on Wednesday night in Montevideo.

The United States produced one of its finest wins on Friday night with a 3-0 decision over Argentina. Even before that upset, Argentine great Diego Maradona marveled at the progress of U.S. soccer.

The victory over Argentina sent the Americans into the quarterfinals, and now they are in the semifinals of a major international tournament for the first time since the 1930 World Cup.

Frank Klopas had the deciding penalty kick for the Americans against Mexican goalie Jorge Campos. The previous U.S. penalty kicks were by Eric Wynalda, Joe-Max Moore and Paul Caligiuri.

The United States fielded an attacking lineup against Mexico in keeping with philosophy of interim coach Steve Sampson, who replaced Bora Milutinovic in April.

And although no goals were produced the result makes a compelling case for Sampson to be awarded the permanent coaching job. In the first round of the Amer-

ica Cup, the United States beat Chile and Argentina and lost to Bolivia.

"We did not have the same sharpness as we did in previous matches," Sampson said. "Some key players looked very tired for us. That is the result of playing so many games in a short period of time."

Monday night's victory marked the third straight time the United States defeated Mexico. The United States is 5-1-1 since its regular players rejoined the national team in June.

After Wynalda and Luis Garcia of Mexico converted penalty kicks in the first round, Friedel followed with two exceptional saves. Moore put the U.S. squad up 2-1, then Carlos Hermosillo fired a bullet to the left that Friedel punched away.

After Caligiuri made it 3-1, Friedel came up with an even bigger save, using his left hand to stop a shot low and to the right. Klopas then delivered the winner, the fourth straight American to score and the only one who shot to the left.

Copa America

"I talked to a couple of (U.S.) players who play in Mexico," Friedel said. "They told me that Luis Garcia had a tendency to go to my left. Well, he changed. They told me Hermosillo has a tendency to go to my right. He didn't change. And Cayote I had no idea. I just reacted to that one."

Campos, whose trademark is loud fluorescent goalie shirts and who intends to play in the U.S. pro league next year, didn't get a hand on any of the four American penalty kicks.

During regulation, Wynalda came closest scoring in the 40th minute. He left three defenders in his trail, but Campos made a fine save. In the next attack, Mexico's Luis Salvador sent a low shot that rebounded off Friedel's legs.

Mexico, a losing finalist in 1993, intensified the pressure in the second half. With seconds remaining, Mexico's Alberto Garcia Aspe was ejected for a hard tackle on Alexi Lalas.

In the Brazil-Argentina game, Edmundo scored the winning penalty kick after Brazilian goalkeeper Taffarel saved shots by Argentina's Diego Simeone and Nestor Fabiani.

Brazil's Tulio tied it 2-2 during regulation with a disputed goal in the 82nd minute. It appeared the striker blatantly controlled a cross with his arm before scoring.

Brazil got its opening goal from Edmundo in the 13th minute. For Argentina, Abel Balbo scored in the second minute and Gabriel Batistuta in the 30th.

'Argentina were robbed' Argentina coach Daniel Passarella claimed his team had been robbed while Brazil captain Dunga accused the Argentines of playing dirty following their Copa America quarter-final on Monday.

Asked if he thought Argentina had been robbed, Passarella said: "Yes, of course, yes."

Passarella said he did not see the highly controversial equaliser, scored by Tulio ten minutes from the end, which gave Brazil a 2-2 draw and took the game to penalties.

"I spent the last 15 minutes in the dressing room listening to the game on the radio," said Passarella, who was banished from the touchline by the referee for dissent.

"The Uruguayan commentator said it was a disgrace, that Argentina had been robbed of their triumph."

He added: "I think that tactically, we were superb. It was our best performance since I took over. When it was eleven against eleven, we were the better team."

Argentina's Leonardo Astrada was sent off shortly

before halftime following an incident with Jorginho.

"We lost 3-0 to the United States and we never mentioned the referee," he added. "Asked about reports of internal wrangling in the Argentine camp, Passarella replied: 'You're badly informed.'"

Dunga did not mince words about the Argentine players. "It was a very difficult game. They used a lot of violence. They had two attacks and scored twice, then they closed up completely."

"We tried to play to win the game. Our team wanted to play football, the other wanted to kick."

Asked by an Argentine reporter about Tulio's goal, he said: "Did you ask Maradona the same question after that World Cup?"

"I have only one thing to say. The winners celebrate, the losers look for excuses. In football, you have to go out to win."

"We are coming towards the year 2000 and it is about time that malicious fouls are punished. Referees must be strict."

"Before the penalty shoot-out began, one of their players kicked me from behind. I told him to get on with the game. I said that if he wanted to fight, we could do it outside afterwards."

Tulio insisted he did not use his hand in controlling the ball when he scored. "I think my goal was an important goal. I controlled the ball with my chest, everybody stopped, but as a natural goalscorer, I never give up and I put the ball in the goal."

Tarango returns with some regrets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeff Tarango won his first ATP match since storming out of Wimbledon, a move he has come to regret after 17 days of reflection.

The 26-year-old American combined with France's Olivier Delaire for a 7-6 (7/2), 7-5 victory over U.S. duo Todd Martin and Scott Davis in a Washington Tennis Classic match delayed two hours by rain and finished before only 97 people.

It was Tarango's first action since he defaulted a third-round match at the Grand Slam grass-court event July 1. Germany's Alexander Mronz won when Tarango walked off after a heated argument over a call by chair umpire to help his favourite players.

Tarango was fined a record 15,500 dollars and the incident was compounded when his wife Benedicte, also from France, slapped Rebeuh after the match.

Tarango rushed to the stadium Tuesday morning without comment and with barely 14 hours to prepare for his singles opener against Zimbabwe's Byron Black.

Tarango spoke only to the Washington Post newspaper on Monday, saying he has had second thoughts about his actions at Wimbledon.

"I regret walking off. I don't regret much else," Tarango told the newspaper. "I probably shouldn't have said (Rebeuh cheats) right there in front of one million people. I probably should have said it behind closed doors. I would love to have dinner with him and talk it all out."

"In a year, I want to wake up and say I haven't made any money off this — I just did what I thought was right at Wimbledon," Tarango said. "It was purely emotion, the heat of the moment. I didn't spit. I didn't use profanity. I merely left the court because I didn't handle it anymore — physically and emotionally."

Tarango also defended his wife, saying she was "the real hero" and that her slap came in the heat of the moment as she searched for her husband.

"It's a French thing, an honour thing," Tarango said. "According to her, this person hurt our family honour."

The nine-year ATP veteran said he and his wife stayed home the past two weeks while he practised alone — "just me and the ball. It's like venting."

Tarango could face more punishment following an investigation of the incident by the ATP and International Tennis Federation. An ATP official here said the probe was "highly unlikely" to conclude this week.

Tarango was on his best behaviour in his return match except for a brief complaint after a close call went against him on the first point of the 10th game. He asked umpire Dana Locomo if he had seen the ball on the call he made, but was calm and walked away without incident after his plea failed.

Tarango was the feature attraction for the crowd of 4,972, but only 231 stayed through the rain delay to witness the moment when he and Delaire walked onto the court to the tune of "good Vibrations" by the Beach Boys. They received a smattering of applause.

Tarango denied making a statement attributed to him and distributed by ATP officials at the event.

FIFA extends Graham ban worldwide

ZURICH (R) — Former Arsenal manager George Graham was banned by FIFA on Tuesday from playing any part in soccer worldwide for the next 12 months.

The world governing body endorsed the one-year suspension imposed on Graham by the English Football Association after he was found guilty of taking £425,000 (\$680,000) in illegal transfer payments.

The ban, which runs until June 30, 1996, followed last week's hearing into misconduct concerning the transfers of Norwegian Pal Lydersen and Danish international John Jensen to Arsenal.

It covers all involvement in football administration, management and coaching, including the signing and transfer of players.

A statement issued by FIFA read: "In extending the ban, FIFA applied article 54 of its statutes, which obliges all member associations to recognise suspensions and expulsions imposed by other member associations."

Graham, meanwhile, has still to announce whether he is to appeal against his punishment.

FIFA will now be taking a closer look at the activities of the man who provided Graham with his transfer cuts, Norwegian agent Rune Hauge.

FIFA have asked the English F.A. to give them more details of Hauge's involvement in the transfer deals.

They will then be reviewed by the FIFA players' status committee at its meeting next month during the Under-17

World Championship in Ecuador. Hauge, who gave evidence to the F.A. commission, faces the threat of having his FIFA world licence withdrawn, which would prevent him from playing any part in future transfer deals.

FIFA's ban completes Graham's downfall since he was sacked by Arsenal in February after the details of his transfer dealings became known.

He was the most successful Arsenal manager since Herbert Chapman in the 1930s and brought six trophies to Highbury in his eight years in charge.

During his playing career he won 12 Scottish caps and League Championship medal as a member of Arsenal's double-winning team of 1971 but his playing achievements were eclipsed by his success as a manager, learning his craft at Millwall before moving back to Arsenal in 1986.

Under Graham Arsenal won the League Championship in 1989 and 1991, the F.A. Cup and League Cup double in 1993, the League Cup in 1987 and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1994.

Graham claimed in his defence that he "never profited" from the unsolicited payments made to him by Hauge and handed the money back to Arsenal.

Ironically, his success as Arsenal's manager was built on a solid defence but, in the end, he had no defence of his own to save himself.



Steffi Graf

Graf introduces own line of clothes

BERLIN (AP) — For Steffi Graf, this was a day to talk about jeans — her own casual fashion collection was introduced — and no questions about the inconsistent taxman, please.

"This is not the proper place," the world's top women tennis player told a rule-breaker Tuesday. "I'm willing to answer questions about jeans."

And so she did, down to the size that fits a six-time Wimbledon champion: waist 30, inseam 34.

With a dynamic Hong Kong businessman and German clothing designers and distributors at her side, the 26-year-old Graf appeared in a short white skirt, satiny white jacket and powder-blue blouse that will be the top of the "Steffi Graf Collection" headed for worldwide merchandising next year.

Since May 23, however, German tax authorities have been investigating Graf and her father-manager, Peter Graf. The Graf villa in Bruchl in Southern Germany was raided, cartons of documents were seized, and Graf admitted in a television interview Saturday that it was damaging.

"It's doing my image absolutely no good," she said on ZDF national television. David Harila, of the Hong Kong family firm Harila's Ltd., which has world rights to the Graf clothing collection, told the Associated Press after Tuesday's fashion show that there was some "bad press" but he was sure Graf would be cleared.

"It will have no negative commercial value. I think everybody knows Steffi, and Steffi is loved in Europe as well as in the rest of the world. I don't think this will bring any detrimental value," he said.

The tax investigation will take months before prosecutors decide whether to raise charges against Graf and her father. Graf has said she had complete trust that her father handled her taxes properly, and the family's lawyers said they will resolve any questions when they have access to the investigators' files.

Graf said the fashion world would not tempt her to end her tennis career, but conceded that she has spent much time recently with the designer, Bernd Lebusch, and working on the up-market line of clothes.

Fashion has always been a strong interest, she said, especially casual jeans and T-shirts.

Velappan predicts end to match-fixing

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Asia's top soccer official on Tuesday predicted an end to match-fixing in the region after a key committee of the Asian Game's ruling body endorsed a radical plan to reshape the sport in southeast Asia.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) General Secretary Peter Velappan was speaking after the first meeting of the 44-member AFC's anti-corruption panel, made up of representatives from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

"Our discussions were, extremely positive and at least I am happy to report that we are beginning to turn the tables on the bookies," Velappan said.

At the head of the panel's discussions were a series of resolutions seeking to pinpoint the reasons players were vulnerable to accepting bribes from bookmakers.

For the first time the AFC document, endorsed by the four countries and Hong Kong, blamed club and national officials for "greed for success and for money."

"It also blamed inadequate employment and financial terms for players and 'inconsistent enforcement of financial obligations.'"

The seven-point document said that players faced a lack of security, had poor discipline and moral values and were subject to harassment from bookies.

Working from these assumptions the AFC panel passed an 11-step programme to fight match-fixing which was heavily skewed towards improving players' welfare.

Among the proposed steps were legal employment contracts, strict enforcement of financial obligations to players, a code of ethics and moral education for players and officials, recognition given to outstanding football achievements and a life ban imposed on anyone involved in match-fixing.

The document represents an about-face in the way Asian football has sought to deal with bookies who seek to control match results by bribing players.

Previous initiatives had focused on punishing players as a deterrent, rather than improving the players' welfare.

Velappan said the new "carrot and stick" approach would pay dividends.

Canadians sprint out of Johnson era

TORONTO (AP) — Elated by the world's fastest 100-metre times this year, two Canadian sprinters hope at long last to escape the shadow of the Ben Johnson scandal with medals at the upcoming World Championships in Sweden.

Even seven years after the 1988 case that shook the Seoul Olympics, Canadian track and field remains scarred by the Johnson debacle. Athletes who set national records routinely face drug tests in an effort to reassure a suspicious public.

"We've come a long way since 1988," said Donovan Bailey after his Canadian record 9.91 in the national championships Saturday.

"There's no way any sprinter or athlete in Canada would be that illiterate to try and fool the people again."

Right on Bailey's heels in Saturday's race was Bruny Surin in 9.97, the second fastest time in the world this year.

"I can't be sad about being

second," Surin said. "I've been looking to run under 10 seconds for years."

Both men — and their 4x100 relay team — will be among the medal favourites at the World Championships Aug. 4-13 in Goteborg, Sweden. They likely will be top contenders again at the Olympics in Atlanta next year.

After Johnson's positive test for steroids cost him the 1988 gold medal, Canada instituted an extensive testing programme for banned performance-enhancing drugs. The Canadian centre for drug-free sport spends 1.5 million yearly to conduct about 2,200 tests on athletes.

Bailey, 27, said he's been tested 15 to 20 times in the past year, including after Saturday's race. He's passed every one.

"I wouldn't be asked about it in Europe, but the whole north American attitude is that everyone running fast is taking steroids," he said.

"Canadian sprinters are

probably the most tested athletes in the world."

Bailey recalled his intense dismay when he learned of the Johnson scandal.

"He was basically the role model for all sprinters in Canada," Bailey said. "That's why the sport died after 1988. There was such a huge letdown."

Surin is relatively well-known — a three-time national champion who finished fourth at 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Bailey, by contrast, admitted that he hadn't lived up to his potential until last year.

Last summer, he ran 10.03, only 1-100th of a second off Surin's former Canadian record.

He came out even faster this year, setting the Canadian record of 9.99 seconds on Apr. 22 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. That stood as the world's best time this year until he shattered the mark Saturday in Montreal — Surin's home town.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144	CINEMA TEL:699238	CINEMA TEL:677420	AMMOON THEATRE TEL:618274 - 618275	Nabil Al Mashhadi Theatre TEL:675571	Nabil & Hisham's TEL:625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	MUSA HIJAZIN	KABARET	AHLAN THEATRE
	Harrison Ford with William Dafe & Anne Archer in Clear & Present Danger	Kamal Shinnawi & Ilham Shahin in Easy to Get	The best love story Only you	"sumaa" IN Hi Citizen	Abeer Issa Ghassan Mashini with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Husseni and Issam Al Hanballi. The theatre closes on Monday	(Ahlan Tatbee) Welcome
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Casartelli dies after Tour de France fall

CAUTERETS, France (AP) — Italy's Fabio Casartelli died Tuesday after a high-speed crash involving several riders during the 15th stage of the Tour de France, according to the race director.

Casartelli, of the American Motorola team, was taken to a hospital after crashing into one of the concrete blocks on the side of the road in the Pyrenees.

He died after being in a coma for a few hours. "It's terrible news," said Jean-Marie Leblanc, the director of the Tour de France.

"Dr. Nicolet, who was with him in the helicopter, called me and told me that their revival attempts were unsuccessful," Casartelli had three cardiac arrests in the helicopter, Leblanc said. "It's terrible for the Motorola team, for Italian cycling and for the Tour de France."

It was the first death on the Tour de France since 1967, when British rider Tom Simpson collapsed during a mountain climb on an extremely hot day.

In 1935 another rider, Francesco Cepeda of Spain, died after a fall in a ravine.

He was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Tarbes. "He has serious facial and skull injuries," Tour doctor Gerard Porte said. "He went into a deep and immediate coma."

Casartelli, who was married, was the Olympic champion in the road race at the 1992 Barcelona Games. He would have turned 25 on Aug. 16.

He won the Olympic gold medal in the road race as an amateur and also had 12 additional wins that year, at 1.83 metres and 74 kilos (163 pounds), he was a talented rider and was successful in individual stages.

In his first pro season in 1993 with Ariostea he won a stage in the Settimana Verticale and had three second-place finishes in stages of the Tour of Switzerland.

The following year he raced with the Italian team GB-MG but a knee injury followed by corrective surgery kept him from competing much of the season.

Casartelli, Germany's Dirk Baldinger of the Polti Team and Italy's Dante Rezza crashed during one of the

descents of the 206-kilometre (128-mile) stage from St. Giron to Cauterets.

At speeds approaching 90 kilometres an hour, the riders failed to negotiate a curve and fell about 30 kilometres from the start on the Portet d'Aspet Mountain.

Rezza and Baldinger were taken to the hospital in Saint-Gaudens. Porte said Rezza injured his left thigh, while Baldinger suffered multiple injuries.

In Italy, former world champion Vittorio Adorni, now an Italian television commentator, was close to tears as he announced Casartelli's death during a live telecast of Tuesday's stage.

Gianmario Savio, Casartelli's manager at ZG Mobili-Selle Italia last year, told Italian television that he was heart-sick by the death of a friend.

"He was a splendid, sensible, frank young boy... now the stage, everything, has a minor importance."

Tour de France accidents

A list of serious and fatal accidents during the Tour de

France since its start in 1903: 1935 — Spain's Francisco Cepeda died after falling into a ravine near Bourg d'Oisans.

1951 — Dutchman Wim Van Est was seriously injured when he fell on a descent in Antibes.

1960 — France's Roger Riviere, on his way to victory, fell into a ravine while crossing the Perjuret Pass (Millau-Avignon Stage). A fractured pelvis put an end to his career.

1967 — British Tom Simpson died after collapsing during an intensive mountain climb on an excessively hot day.

1995 — Italy's Fabio Casartelli died after crashing on the descent of the Portet d'Aspet mountain.

Other fatal accidents of past tours not involving competitors:

1957 — Radio reporter Alex Virot and his motorcycle driver, Rene Wagner, fell into a ravine and died during the Barcelona-ax-Les-Thermes stage.

1964 — A truck in the tour's caravan ran out of control and plowed into a crowd of onlookers, killing 10.

Patrick McEnroe advances

WASHINGTON, D.C. (R) — Patrick McEnroe advanced easily and Paul Goldstein lost a longshot chance to become a millionaire in first-round action at the Legg Mason Tennis Classic on Monday.

The 11th-seeded McEnroe used consistent groundstrokes and a strong first serve to beat Germany's Alexander Mronz 6-3, 6-2.

"I know I'm prepared and I know I'm hitting the ball well. Somebody's going to have to beat me," said McEnroe.

Thirteenth seed Patrick Rafter of Australia survived a scare from American qualifier Don Johnson before winning 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 while 15th seed Vince Spadea of the United States fell to Australian Jamie Morgan 6-4, 6-1.

Top seed in the tournament is Andre Agassi, who opens play against Rodolphe Gilbert of France on Wednesday.

In the absence of any top stars on Monday, the fans were most excited by the match in which Goldstein, a 19-year-old university student, dropped a hotly contested match to Venezuela's Nicolas Pereira 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Goldstein, a resident of nearby Rockville, Maryland, earned a wild card into the main draw by winning a local pre-tournament event and would have pocketed \$1 million had he won the main tournament, too.

"(The money) really wasn't on my mind," Goldstein said. "Maybe if I had won a couple of matches it would have been there. Maybe if I'd thought about it a little more I would have been more psyched."

Pereira fought back from a one-set deficit in front of a completely pro-Goldstein crowd. The fan support gave Goldstein the momentum early on, but the lack of a powerful first serve proved his undoing.

"The crowd was great but I didn't give them much to holler and cheer about," Goldstein said.

Boos for Christie highlight crisis

LONDON (AP) — British track and field is in turmoil, three weeks before the World Championships in Sweden.

Sally Gunnell is injured and will not defend her 400-metre hurdles title, 100-metre champion Linford Christie is in a "panic" because of a knee problem, and 110-metre hurdles titlist Colin Jackson is at the centre of controversy.

Jackson was left off the team named Monday for the Aug. 4-13 Championships in Göteborg.

The world record-holder withdrew from the National Championships in Birmingham on Saturday after running a heat, citing a groin injury. But he flew to Padua, Italy, and won a 110-hurdles race Sunday, receiving a reported \$35,000 fee.

The British Athletic Federation team selectors said Jackson could be reinstated to the team if he proves his "competitive fitness."

That angered BAF executive chairman Peter Radford, further splitting the sport.

"The selectors have made some questionable decisions. I do not believe these decisions are correct," Radford said.

"It is self evident that Jackson is selling the sport short," Radford said. "Nor do I believe it is in the best interest of the sport or the other."

athletes to select athletes for the World Championships who do not compete fully in the championships trials and whose fitness is still an issue. "Events of last weekend have serious implications for the future of the championships/trials and for British athletics."

Christie, the world and Olympic 100-metre champion, was booed by some fans Saturday when he won his race as a "guest."

He failed to qualify for the semifinals when he eased up in his heat and finish fourth in 10.93. He requested and was given a "quest" lane in the final which he won in the fast, and seemingly injury-free, time of 10.18. But the crowd's reception indicated the public is growing weary of Christie's appetite for controversy.

Monday's British newspapers said Christie and Jackson's business partners in the sports management company Nuff Respect, were insulting the sport which has made them millionaires.

This was Christie's first domestic meeting since resolving a money dispute with the BAF. He, Jackson and 200-metre runner John Regis, also in the Nuff Respect stable, held out for more appearance money.

Twice this season, Christie has left team management

uncertain until the last minute on his availability for important championships, the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona in March and the European Cup in Lille last month.

In June, he announced he would retire at the end of the season because he was sick of the treatment he received from the media.

Christie is flying to Munich, Germany, this week for treatment on his right knee.

"I'm running in pain," he said. "It's taking too long to clear up and I'm beginning to panic. I could do without this three weeks before the World Championships."

Gunnell, still nobbled by an Achilles tendon injury, confirmed that she won't be fit enough to run the 400-metre hurdles, she may run in the 1,600-metre relay.

"I've decided I can't get into shape to retain the title," Gunnell said. "I've missed about two months training and the tendon is still jarring when I'm hurdling."

The one piece of good news from the weekend was the continued form of middle distance runner Kelly Holmes. She won the 800 in 1:57.56, the fastest time in the world this year, and plans to double up in the 1,500 in Göteborg as well.

World Basketball Championship Jordan lose 68-60 to Asian champions

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Under-18 basketball team lost by a mere 8 points to Asian champions South Korea late Monday night in the second round of the 5th Junior World Basketball Championship currently underway in Greece.

Korea won the first half 36-32 and went on to win 68-60 as Jordan's Ma'an Odeh had 21 points and Zeid Alkhas 20 points. Other players were held to low scoring as Ihab Mshah had 8, Fadi Saqqa 6, Ashraf Samarah 3 and Samer Nino 2.

With South Korea committing a high number of 19 fouls, Jordan scored 10 out of 15 free throws at 66 per cent but shooting was held to 50 per cent with only 19 out of 38 and only 4 out of

13 three-point shots. In other matches Nigeria beat Italy 59-57, Puerto Rico scored a 123-120 win over China in triple overtime, and Venezuela beat Angola 95-86.

In the preliminary round, Jordan had finished last in Group C after losing to titleholders the U.S. 61-51, Australia 78-35 and Italy 87-64.

The Kingdom's team is now playing 9-16th places with South Korea, China, Puerto Rico in one group and Venezuela, Nigeria, Italy and Angola in another.

Sixteen teams are taking part in the championship. The top eight moved into the semifinals and will play for 1-8th places. They are: Lithuania, Argentina, Australia, Spain, Croatia, France, the U.S. and Greece.

Jordan, the third place

finisher in the Asian Championship in March, is representing the continent along with China and S. Korea.

The U-18 team is the first to represent Jordan in a world championship, and only the third Arab country to qualify for the World Basketball Championship. Egypt finished last in Sao Paulo in 1979 while Syria

came in 12th among 16 in the 1992 championship in Canada.

Jordan's team includes Zeid Alkhas, Ma'an Odeh, Ashraf Samarah, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Samer Nino, Ihab Mshah, Ramzi Ghneim, Fadi Al Saqqa, Zeid Zn'mot, Ra'ed Ghoseh, Ziyad Naghoj, and Seif Lada.

Match statistics

	Jordan	S. Korea
Fast Breaks	1/3	3/7
Fouls	16	19
Rebounds	28	19
Assists	8	11
Turnovers	20	18
Steals	11	9
Blocks	1	0
Possessions	87	74
Free throws	10/15 (66%)	2/3 (66%)
2-point shots	19/38 (50%)	18/30 (60%)
3-point shots	4/13 (30%)	10/22 (45%)

Italian Severini fails dope test

ROME (R) — Italian boxer Piero Severini has tested positive for the banned drug ephedrine after a domestic super-welterweight title fight in April, an Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) official said on Monday.

CONI's anti-doping commission secretary Alessandro Camilli said Severini, 25, failed a urine test after fighting holder Davide Ciarlante for the Italian super-welterweight title in Pozzuoli, near Naples, on April 24.

It was the second incident

involving the use of banned substances to hit Italian boxing, and in the same weight category, in recent months.

Former World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-welterweight champion Gianfranco Rosi was banned for two years on Friday for testing positive after beating champion Verno Phillips of the United States in their title fight in May.

Severini was 13th in the European Boxing Union (EBU) rankings in May this year. Ciarlante was fourth.

Their fight was stopped in

the sixth round after an accidental headbut and a controversial "no decision" outcome that left Ciarlante with the Italian title.

Camilli said both Severini's urine samples had tested positive and he would be called in front of a CONI commission on Wednesday to hear his version of events.

An eventual decision on whether to ban Severini would be taken by the Italian Boxing Federation (FPI).

Rosi was banned for taking amphetamines which are on the banned list because they

act as a stimulant and can contribute to weight loss by reducing appetite.

Camilli said Severini will be heard by the commission on Wednesday.

He said the commission would also hear the cases of professional cyclist Walter Castignola, three Italian American football players and windsurf champion Riccardo Giordano who had also all tested positive for doping.

Italian ice skater Simona Allori, who reportedly refused a random dope test, would also be summoned.

FA considers only one qualifying round

SILVERSTONE (AP) — Michael Schumacher and Damon Hill can't keep out of each other's way on the circuit while Formula One leaders are considering more changes to the sport, like restricting drivers to only one qualifying round.

The Schumacher-Hill crash at Silverstone has re-fuelled their personal feud and may anger the fans of the two leading Formula One racers.

Last year, Hill and his Williams Renault team received death threats from Schumacher's fans and with the next round being on the German's home territory, there is a threat that Sunday's drama could spark trouble.

"You have to take the threats seriously as we did last year, but we don't expect any problems," Williams

spokeswoman Ann Bradshaw said.

"I don't think we are as worried about going to Germany as Michael was coming to England. He had a lot to be worried about after what happened in Adelaide." That was another collision.

Schumacher, leading Hill by one point before going to the Australian Grand Prix, ran into the British driver and neither finished the final race of the season.

This time Schumacher leads Hill by 11 points with half the season to go and therefore no suggestion that the British driver tried to knock the German off the track at Silverstone's priority bend.

He tried to be squeezed

between Renault and the left-hand curve, but his front right wheel struck the German's left side and they both slid off the circuit onto the gravel.

"I felt there was a genuine chance to attack him as he had taken a wide line," Hill said Monday, back at his home in Dublin, Ireland. "I believe that and I don't think I did anything wrong."

Although Schumacher described Hill's driving manoeuvre as "crazy and unnecessary," the Williams team backed their driver.

"Both Frank Williams and Patrick Head are very supportive of Damon," Bradshaw said. "They appreciate the way he played the incident down, just like we did after Adelaide last year."

"This is motor racing, this sort of thing happens. Damon is the man chosen to drive the race. If he feels he has got for it then we back his decisions."

The incident happened against a background of near animosity between the two drivers. Each accused the other of dangerous driving in earlier races and Hill, commenting on Schumacher's personality, described him as characterless and cloned by his sponsors.

While the feud continues, Formula One officials, who have already made major rule changes in the past two years to improve safety and restrict the influence of the most powerful engines, are considering another change to the race format.

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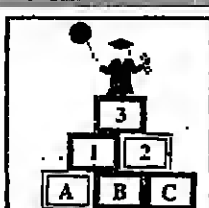
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Cairo detains 16 members of Muslim Brotherhood

CAIRO (AP) — In a fresh attempt to crack down on Islamic fundamentalist groups, security forces have detained 16 top members of the Muslim Brotherhood, police sources said Tuesday.

The sources, insisting on anonymity, said the suspects were seized after taking part in discussions of "terrorist plans." But the Brotherhood issued a statement saying the arrests were aimed at discrediting the group before upcoming parliamentary elections.

The arrests late Monday were the latest step in a government round-up of Brotherhood members that began in January. Dozens have been detained, but it's not known how many remain in custody since some have been released and seized a second time.

The Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist group, is officially outlawed but has been allowed to operate openly. It has publicly denounced violence, but officials have accused it of supporting Muslim radicals seeking to overthrow the government.

Despite the accusations, none of those arrested has been formally charged with any crime. It's not unusual in Egypt for suspects to be held during investigations before being charged.

The Brotherhood statement said eight of those arrested in the earlier round-ups were expected to be brought before a court Wednesday to face possible charges.

The statement, telefaxed to the Associated Press, said the latest arrests, mostly of

local Brotherhood leaders in several Egyptian provinces, came in raids on the members' houses.

Among the detainees are three former members of parliament, doctors, a religious leader and several teachers, the statement said. It listed 15 names, but the police sources said 16 members were arrested.

The sources described the detainees as senior leaders of the group, some of whom returned recently from Sudan, which the government also has accused of backing Egyptian Muslim radicals.

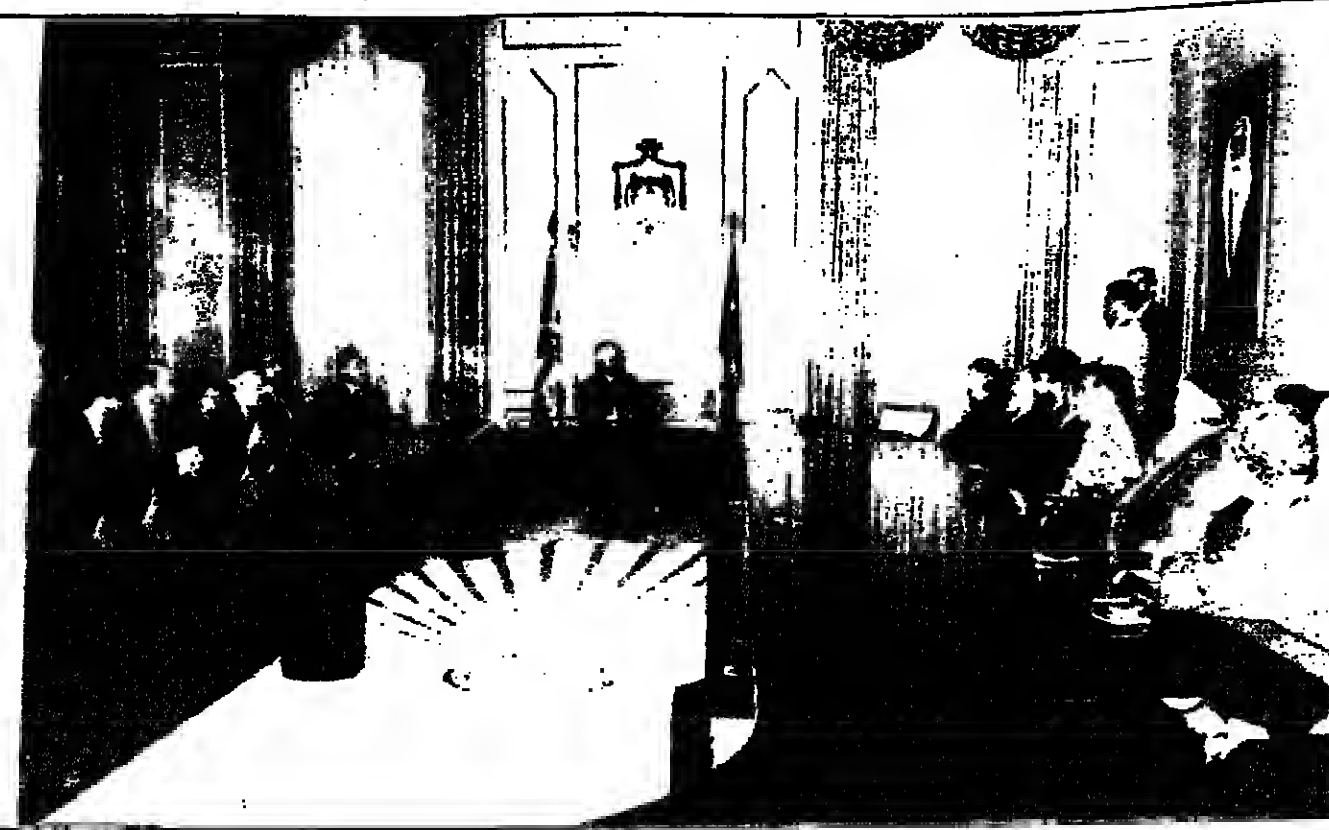
The suspects were seized after a meeting for the Brotherhood's Shura, or consultative council, where terrorist plans on Arab and international levels were discussed, the sources said.

Documents, local and foreign currency, video tapes, computer diskettes and pictures of "non-Egyptian terrorists" training on firearms also were seized, the sources said.

The Brotherhood statement said the arrests were linked to elections due in October. "This behaviour brings no good and comes at a time when the elections approach and the arena of freedom should have been widened," it said.

While the Brotherhood cannot run candidates since religious parties are banned under Egypt's constitution, its members have been elected to parliament by running under the banner of other parties. Brotherhood leaders have said they hope to run candidates in the fall elections in any way they can.

JORDAN COMMITTED TO PEACE: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives at the Royal Court a delegation from the Israeli Shas Party. The King assured the delegation that the Kingdom will remain committed to the cause of comprehensive peace in the region (Petra photo)



Syria rejects accusations on military talks

Rabin says no progress expected unless military experts meet

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — On Tuesday Syria rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's charge that Damascus had broken an agreement to resume military talks with Israel.

"Rabin's accusations are contrary to facts," the official daily Tishreen said. "Had Israel responded to the requirements and principles of the peace process the negotiations would have gone on normally and naturally," the newspaper said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Sunday that the ambassadors of Israel and Syria would meet in Washington within two weeks and that it was a "technical issue" whether military representatives would join them.

But Mr. Rabin remarked, saying he viewed the Syrian refusal to meet "not as a technical matter but as a violation of an agreement." But the United States,

under pressure from Israel to be more assertive, on Monday urged Syria to live up to its agreement with the Jewish state to have military experts meet by the end of July.

State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns acknowledged that during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's last trip to the Middle East in June, Syria and Israel had agreed on a series of steps for peace talks through July. "When the parties make commitments on each other, or to us, it is important that they live up to those commitments," Mr. Burns told reporters.

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross failed during a tour of the region last week to fix a date for a new round of Syrian-Israeli military meetings, originally planned to follow up talks between the Syrian and Israeli army chiefs held in Washington on June 27-29. The talks focus on security

arrangements that would back a proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967. These include early warning systems, demilitarized zones and peacekeeping troops.

Syria has a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and says security arrangements should be equal and balanced. Israel refuses to reveal the extent of a pull-back until Damascus agrees to establish normal ties with the Jewish state.

Tishreen said resumption of the military talks was linked to progress in talks between Lieutenant-General Hikmat Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian armed forces, and his Israeli opposite number, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shabab.

"Talks between the army chiefs and the visit by the U.S. peace coordinator refute Rabin's accusations and give the real picture about Israel's responsibility

on why the military talks did not resume," it said. "Had Israel proved its response to the equal and balanced security arrangements during talks of the army chiefs then a date for the military experts would have been fixed," it said.

"Israel had returned to the policy of blackmail, bargaining and manoeuvring...it wants to maintain its occupation of the Golan in various forms...It also wants to harm Syria's sovereignty," the newspaper said.

But Syria confirmed Tuesday that talks at ambassador level with Israel would resume soon in Washington.

"The negotiations will resume at ambassador level to find a common platform and discuss security measures" to accompany an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights, state radio said, without giving a precise date.

Mr. Christopher had said ambassador-level talks would resume in Washington in a week or two. The radio said that "when the two parties have agreed on security elements, military experts will be able to meet to discuss applying elements on the ground."

Mr. Rabin, however, said no progress will be made in Israel-Syria peace negotiations until Syria agrees to resume talks between military leaders as planned.

Mr. Rabin told the parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee that Syria had broken its commitment to the United States to continue with the military talks.

A legislator present at the committee meeting said Mr. Rabin had said: "Until Syria agrees to renew the generals' talks there will be no new development."

U.K. rules out privacy legislation

LONDON (AP) — Rejecting legislation to protect privacy, the government said Monday it will give newspapers more time to prove that they can curb their own excesses. Newspaper editors welcomed the move. Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley, responsible for press legislation, recommended that the newspapers' own Press Complaints Commission tighten up its definition of privacy. She also proposed a fund for compensating victims of intrusion. But she rejected a House of Commons committee's proposal for civil and criminal legislation to establish a right of privacy. "The government would prefer to see a self-regulatory process than to introduce a law which could create more problems than it is designed to solve," Mrs. Bottomley told the House of Commons. She said the industry had not yet proven that self-regulation works. "Despite the serious practical difficulties, legislative measures should not be ruled out," she said. Senior editors commended Mrs. Bottomley, who was appointed to the heritage position only last month, for backing off legislation. "We have long supported the self-regulation of the press and we welcome the government's recognition that the system is working and that it is the best way forward," said a statement from Rupert Murdoch's news corporation, which publishes the Times and the Sun, both right-wing papers. Peter Preston, the editor-in-chief of the left-wing Guardian newspaper, agreed. "I particularly welcome the recognition that the press protects our freedom," he said. "This would have been a better place to start rather than end up."

The two sides have been in a tug-of-war over a deal on withdrawal of troops from West and holding Palestine. But after PLO chief Yasser Arafat Foreign Minister Peres, Mr. Arafat said an agreement reached until Wednesday.

All three leaders progress after the meeting in the afternoon of Alexander. He offered few specifics, but said the summit was a success. It was very positive, he said. He said a new agreement with Mr. Mubarak, Peres outside the summit.

Yacht rescues man adrift for 2 days

ATHENS (AP) — A yacht competing in the annual Aegean Sea rally rescued a French windsurfer who had been adrift on his board for two days after his sail was damaged, officials said Monday. The tourist, identified as Jean Grosso, was found Saturday about 10 nautical miles south of Paros in the Cyclades Island chain. He had drifted away on the current after his sail was damaged while he surfaced off the island Thursday, a Merchant Marine Ministry spokesman said. Grosso, who is in his mid-30s, received first aid treatment for shock on the nearby island of Los before returning to Paros on a ferry. He was kept in the local hospital for observation for 24 hours before being released, a Coast Guard official on Paros said. The man's hometown and details of his condition were not immediately available.

Teenager fined after Major pistol scare

LONDON (R) — A teenager who fired a starting pistol outside the home of British Prime Minister John Major, was fined £250 (\$400) Monday. Robert Gipters, 19, admitted threatening behaviour and has written to the British leader to apologise for firing the pistol as Major was being driven past into his country home. The court recognised that Gipters, who had been drinking and left home after an argument, did not intend to harm anyone as the pistol could not fire bullets.

New elegance for Parisian meter maids

PARIS (AFP) — Paris's army of meter maids hit the streets Monday wearing a new uniform replacing the light blue costume that earned the name of "periwinkles." The jaunty number in the city colours of blue and garnet was designed for Paris' ticket-wielding fashion plates by Frankie Tacque of Balenciaga, who beat three other countries in a 1993 competition. One of the also-rans was Carven, designer of the periwinkles' light blue uniform accented with a silk scarf and topped with a sharp felt bowler hat. The new uniform is every bit as elegant as the old one.

Car bomb in Algeria injures 14; Italian shot

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded near apartment buildings housing police officers' families in a town outside the capital, wounding 14 people, a newspaper reported Monday.

Further details of the Sunday attack were not known, but initial reports said the facades of several buildings had been blown off, the daily newspaper Liberté said.

An Italian was shot in the neck and injured in an apparent ambush in the Kouba section of Algiers.

Dino Fausti, a 48-year-old fish dealer, was in serious condition after an operation at a military hospital, a foreign ministry official in Rome said.

Mr. Fausti was in a coma fighting for his life on Tuesday, an Italian embassy spokesman said.

The embassy spokesman said: "I saw him after he was transferred from the operating room. He was in a coma and his state was serious. We hope he will survive but his condition was serious."

Mr. Fausti was the target of an attack by unidentified gunmen, said a hospital source who would not be named.

Muslim radicals waging a three-year civil war against the government have assassinated more than 80 foreigners as part of their insurgency to establish an Islamic state.

Car bombs have become increasingly common since the start of the armed Islamic insurgency that has left more than 30,000 people dead in three years.

A car bomb attack on July 1, also in Boufarik, killed at least four people.

Sudan frees Italian doctor and colleague

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan on Tuesday freed an Italian doctor and his Sudanese colleague who were detained two months ago by government troops fighting southern rebels.

Italian Giuseppe Meo and the Sudanese, Hisban Zaida, who worked for the Italian-based Charity Comitato Collaborazione Medica, were released in a simple ceremony at the foreign ministry in Khartoum.

The two doctors were detained by government troops in the southern village of Pariang when it was captured from rebels fighting the government in Khartoum in May.

Before handing Dr. Meo over to the Italian ambassador in Sudan, Awad Al Kerim Fadallah, first undersecretary at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, said Dr. Meo had violated Sudanese law by entering the country without a visa.

Dr. Fadallah said Dr. Meo and Dr. Zaida had been working with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"The two doctors were rendering help to an outlaw group which is at war with the Sudanese government and their help could only perpetuate hostilities and exacerbate the suffering of the people of southern Sudan," Dr. Fadallah said.

Israel, E.U. complete new trade agreement

TEL AVIV (AP) — The European Union (EU) and Israel have reached a new trade agreement eliminating most remaining tariffs and granting the Jewish state unique observer status in research and development committees, the foreign ministry announced Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres termed the agreement, finalised in Brussels Monday, "an important stepping stone in widening relations between Israel and Europe."

Israel is hoping the new accord, which replaces a 1975 free-trade agreement, will help it narrow a \$7 billion trade deficit with the European Union.

While the agreement is one of the most far-reaching with a non-European country, it falls short of Israel's initial hopes for associate status similar to that of Eastern

European countries with less developed economies.

Israel is the first non-EU country to be granted observer status in the field of research and development, however. The accord opens markets to Israeli hi-tech firms by enabling their participation in EU government tenders, particularly in telecommunications.

Talks dragged on for almost two years because of Israel's demand for more openness to its agricultural exports. In the end, the EU agreed to lower quotas and drop customs on fresh herbs, flowers and grapes.

Israel has agreed to drop customs on EU-produced apples, cheese, wheat and flour. The agreement is to be signed in Brussels in October and later ratified by the European Parliament, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Kuwaiti minister in S. Arabia to discuss borders

JEDDAH (AP) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister arrived Tuesday with a message for King Fahd from the Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, as the two neighbours move to finalise demarcation of their land border and territorial waters.

The minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, reported Monday to the Kuwaiti Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee on the mission.

The two countries demarcated their (220-kilometre) land boundary in the so-called neutral zone in 1968.

SLA frees 5 prisoners in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Iranian-backed guerrillas hit a mechanised Israeli patrol with a Sagger anti-tank missile in South Lebanon Tuesday, knocking out a Merkava tank, security sources reported.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no immediate word of casualties in the 4:30 p.m. (1330 GMT) ambush near the

Beit Yahoun checkpoint in the central sector of the Israeli-occupied enclave along the border.

The Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, or Party of God, claimed responsibility and said several Israelis were killed or wounded.

There was no immediate comment from Israeli military authorities.

The sources said Israeli

artillery and tanks shelled suspected guerrilla hideouts in Shiite villages outside the so-called "security zone" following the assault. No casualties were reported from the bombardment.

Earlier Tuesday, Israel's militia ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) released five prisoners from a detention camp in the occupied zone.

Iraqi opposition leader to visit Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Iraqi Shi'ite opposition leader Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim will visit Syria this week for talks with other opposition factions on how to topple the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

A spokesman for the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) told Reuters on Tuesday that Mr. Hakim, who heads the council, will also meet Syrian officials and "some brothers from the Gulf."

"Hakim had previously proposed a comprehensive plan for toppling Saddam and paving the way for the Iraq

opposition to take over. This plan would be discussed with opposition factions during this visit," the SCIRI official said.

He said Mr. Hakim, who will arrive on Friday, will meet "some brothers from the Gulf and Iraqis who are living in Syria."

The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted Mr. Hakim as saying he had suggested several ways to intensify and government operations inside Iraq in meetings with other opposition groups.

Disturbances were recently widely reported between Iraqi security forces and a Sunni Muslim tribe in the west of

the country that had formed a pillar of support for President Saddam's regime.

But Iraqi opposition groups are deeply ideologically divided between Kurdish guerrillas in the north, Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalists in the south and smaller groups of leftists, Arab nationalists and liberal democrats.

The various groups have met since the Gulf war but have not coordinated any common plan of action before.

Syria, which is hostile to the Baghdad government, hosts many Iraqi opposition exiles.

